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Coalition handily puts down no-confidence motions

LIAT COLLINS

YESTERDAY'S debate over two no-confidence motions turned into a slanging match between opposition and coalition, as both sides kept their eyes firmly on the TV cameras.

The government, as expected, handily defeated the motions, filed by the Likud and the National Religious Party, with Tsemet, 59-48 with no abstentions. As the no-confidence motions were over Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's statement last week that he would ease the closure of the territories even though it would endanger the security of Israeli citizens, Rabin himself responded for the coalition.

He was severely heckled by Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu and other opposition MKs.

Netanyahu started his attack on Rabin early in the discussion: "I want us to understand what's going on here. The prime minister and defense minister of the State of Israel says he prefers to endanger Israel's security in order to help the Palestinians. And he even says: 'I did it against the security interests of Israel.'"

Netanyahu said he could not understand why Rabin had spent so much time "dithering between Palestinian and Israeli interests, only to come down in favor of the Palestinians." He accused him of becoming Arafat's "Siamese twin" and compared him to Neville Chamberlain.

"You always dither and then make the wrong choice," Netanyahu said.

Rabin who began the discussion in unusually good mood, soon lost patience with Netanyahu, telling him to "sit down and be quiet. You've never even held a government position."

Rabin's main theme was that Islamic extremists want to torpedo the peace process, and this has led to an increase in fatal terror attacks within the Green Line, at the same time the attacks have decreased in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza.

"The terrorists want to kill the chance of peace," Rabin said.

"So why don't they kill Arafat?" asked Netanyahu.

"For the same reason that Goldsteins don't place car bombs here," countered Rabin.

He accused the Likud of having no alternative plan.

"But at least we're not stupid," said Naomi Blumenthal, referring to Rabin's well-publicized description of his own party.

"You said that. I wouldn't say that," Rabin fired back.

NRP leader Zvulun Hammer also attacked Rabin, accusing him of gambling with Israeli lives.

"The government is planning a casino and meanwhile is playing Russian roulette," he said.

Knesset approves appointments of new ministers

LIAT COLLINS

THE Knesset approved the appointments of Uzi Baram and Shimon Shestret as Interior Affairs Minister and Religious Affairs Minister, respectively, last night by a 52-29 vote, with seven abstentions.

Six of those who abstained were from the religious parties Shas, United Torah Judaism and Agudat Yisrael; the seventh was Moshe Kahlon of the Likud.

The Knesset vote was basically a formality following the Cabinet's approval, but sparked a long discussion. The opposition was particularly angered by the coalition's decision to turn the vote into a vote of confidence. This stopped a possible no-confidence motion over the appointments, which would have stalled them for at least another week.

Baram will continue to be Tourism Minister while Shestret will still be Economics and Planning Minister.



Border policemen carry away a haredi demonstrator in Jaffa yesterday during a protest of the construction of an apartment block on what the haredim say is the site of Jewish graves. Another protest is expected today. See story, Page 12.

(Ailon Ron / Israel Sun)

Bank clerk accused of manipulating shares

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

BANK of Israel inspectors and Bank Hapoalim's internal audit committee yesterday swept into Bank Hapoalim's Rehovot branch to investigate allegations that one of the branch's chief investment advisers was engaged in stock manipulation.

The Securities Authority has also started an investigation. Investment adviser Amnon Peled and deputy branch manager Yossi Quint, head of the investment department, were questioned. The bank was also instructed to supply all relevant information.

The episode was first revealed yesterday morning following Army Radio's business reporter Yuval Landau's broadcast of a cassette, recorded in October 1991, on which Peled could be heard advising an unidentified customer to buy warrants which were considered very high risk investments, and offered him a loan to finance the deal. The tape was recorded October 1994, about nine months after the stock market started to plunge.

Peled was heard saying: "All of your portfolio, with the exception of Abjac, should be in warrants. I'm serious..."

He was also heard trying to convince the customer to engage in illegal stock manipulation. Peled recommended the customer buy securities and then spread false rumors about them to encourage other investors to purchase them, thereby pushing up the price.

"We will invest in several warrants and then start talking, so that they'll buy a little, and it'll go up for us. Why not, why not do this?" Peled said.

Supervisor of Banks Ze'ev Abeles said he is not aware of any other similar incidents. He added that the banks have clear instructions not to give customers securities investment advice.

According to the radio broadcast, the customer owes about NIS 800,000 to Bank Hapoalim. He claims he went into debt after the bank used his money for

speculative activity, without receiving his approval. He customer decided to record his conversations with Peled after losing a great deal of money in 1994.

"I don't deal with incidents of this kind," branch manager Aliza Shur said. "I heard about the incident at seven this morning and immediately sent Peled and Quint to the bank's internal control department."

While Shur emphasized the allegations against Peled are not necessarily true, a customer said: "The radio report does not surprise me. I know how this branch works, and believe me not all the investment advisers operate in accord with the law."

"The bank's management instructed the internal control committee to investigate the alleged accusations," the Bank Hapoalim spokesman said. "The authorized institutions are currently investigating the episode. If they find that the issues raised in the

report are true, revealing not only a serious deviation from the bank's regulations and instructions and damaging the bank's trustworthiness, appropriate measures will be taken.

"The Bank Hapoalim group employs thousands of workers and senior managers, who do their work with loyalty toward the customers and the bank, and it would not be fair to reach conclusions concerning the workers and the bank. To our regret, almost all institutions have individuals engaged in irregular activities."

Rabin rejects Peace Now pullout plan

JON IMMANUEL

PEACE Now representatives met with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin yesterday to discuss an interim plan calling for the removal of 27 settlements to restore Palestinian confidence in the peace process.

Rabin rejected the plan, saying that "he believes he can move to redeployment and elections without moving a single settlement," according to Peace Now spokesman Tsali Reshef.

In the cabinet, only the Meretz ministers are said to support the plan.

"The main difficulty in implementing the withdrawal from Palestinian population centers is the location of settlements scattered throughout the West Bank," Peace Now wrote in the four-page proposal it handed to Rabin along with a map.

The plan would uproot 7,000 settlers, while requiring the continued deployment of the army in Palestinian areas with a population of 33,000. This means that

removing 5 percent of the settlers gives 98% of the Palestinians self-rule. About 60% of the land area of Judea and Samaria would be evacuated by troops.

In addition, the plan would save "hundreds of thousands of dollars on planned bypass roads which are to serve tiny settlements in the West Bank."

Reshef said that Rabin did not feel that isolated settlements would be difficult to protect, but was worried that areas inside the Green Line would be exposed to greater dangers if towns like Tul-karm and Kalkilya, close to the Green Line, came under Palestinian rule.

Rabin noted that PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat has not called for uprooting settlements now, and is ready to have many roads manned by joint patrols.

Peace Now argued that security, the presence of settlements, and the problems of redeployment are connected.

"If you remove some settlements, it is much less complicated (Continued on Page 2)

The settlements proposed for evacuation

(from south to north)

- | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Otniel | 10. Abir Ya'acov | 19. Shavel Shomron |
| 2. Hagai | 11. Psagot | 20. Einav |
| 3. Hebron | 12. Dolev | 21. Avnei Hefetz |
| 4. Metzad | 13. Talmor A | 22. Homesh |
| 5. Ma'aleh Amos | 14. Talmor B | 23. Sa-Nur |
| 6. Tzoref | 15. Nahliel | 24. Hermesab |
| 7. Tekoa | 16. Yitzhar | 25. Mevo Dotan |
| 8. Nokedim | 17. Itamar | 26. Kadim |
| 9. Har Gilo | 18. Bracha | 27. Ganim |

Major British bank collapses

LONDON (Reuters) - Britain yesterday launched an urgent investigation after a rogue trader brought down Barings, the country's oldest investment bank, by making a mind-boggling \$27 billion bet that went horribly wrong.

As Malaysian police hunted for 28-year-old Nick Leeson, a manager at Barings office in neighboring Singapore, finance minister Kenneth Clarke sought to reassure financial markets that the sudden collapse of a pillar of Britain's banking establishment would not do lasting damage.

TASE shares plunge again

NEIL COHEN

SHARES on the Tel Aviv stock exchange plunged again yesterday after the bounce on Sunday, falling to their lowest level in more than two years. They now stand only a fraction above the level when the current government took office.

Traders attributed the fall to disappointment that the Bank of Israel had said after yesterday's cabinet meeting that there were no more interest rate cuts in the pipeline at this stage. However, others said forecasts of an impending recession had brought on the gloom.

The Mishtanim or Two-Sided index of widely traded stocks fell by 3.39% to 146.83 points. The Maof index of the largest stocks fell by 3.33% to 146.89 points. Turnover remained light at NIS 71.8 million.

Bonds, however, continued the recovery begun on Sunday and there were rises in CPI-linked bonds of all maturities, including longer-dated issues.

Full report, Page 9

Palestinian security man implicated in attacks deported to Jordan

JON IMMANUEL

A PALESTINIAN security officer was deported yesterday for alleged involvement in attacks on Israelis.

Maj. Mohammed Jamil Issawi was arrested on January 16 at the Erez checkpoint, after being allowed in from Jordan by mistake, as he was a fugitive suspected of carrying out attacks against Israeli soldiers and collaborators before the Oslo accords.

Israeli security forces drove Issawi to the Allenby Bridge and made him cross into Jordan, after the High Court of Justice denied his petition against deportation. He had belonged to Force 17, the personal guard of PLO leader Yasser Arafat.

Jordan had said it would not accept him, since he was said to have entered that country with forged papers, but he did not

return.

Meanwhile, Jamil Hamami, head of Jerusalem's Islamic Cultural Research Institute, is to be charged with incitement for a taped speech he made. Security forces found the tape during a raid on Abu Dis College during a crackdown on Hamas.

Hamami's lawyer Jawad Boulos said he had been told the tape contained phrases like "we are all ready to be martyrs," which are religious phrases made on religious occasions. The phrase could also be interpreted as encouraging suicide attacks, depending on the context. Hamami is considered a moderate Islamist.

Israel Radio reported that the army arrested 20 Palestinians in Jenin yesterday on suspicion of involvement with Hamas.

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Shohat: Separation shouldn't affect economic ties with PA

ECONOMIC cooperation between Israel and the Palestinians will remain intact under the security arrangements aimed at separating the two populations, Finance Minister Avraham Shohat said yesterday.

Shohat met Palestinian Authority Economics Minister Ahmed Qreia yesterday in Jericho as part of the Israeli-Palestinian Joint Economic Committee to review issues related to the implementation of the economic agree-

ment between the two sides, and to deal with problems that have arisen.

The two focused on closure-related difficulties and on the separation issue. Shohat emphasized that separation should not harm economic relations between the parties and that they should pursue a joint economic existence, as reflected by the continued movement of

JOSE ROSENFELD

goods and labor between the sides.

Qreia said economic relations have to be built on a basis of equality and cooperation. He added that there is no way to avoid separation, noting that the Palestinian Authority will have to be a partner in that process.

Treasury spokesman Elisheva Braun said the issue of the establishment of special industrial

zones in the territories came up, but Shohat deferred the discussion until the government elaborates a unified position. Currently, there are two proposals. The Ministry of Industry and Trade proposes establishing the zones on the Israeli side bordering the autonomous areas, while the Foreign and Finance ministries want to establish the zones on the Palestinian side of the border.

Shohat and Qreia agreed to meet again next month.

Naval blockade on Lebanon continues

THE navy continues to partially blockade Lebanese ports from Nakoura, on the border, to Damour, south of Beirut.

Navy sources said yesterday that Dabur patrol boats and larger missile boats are monitoring the Lebanese coastline and preventing fishing vessels from sailing further than one kilometer out to sea.

The blockade, which began inconspicuously almost three weeks ago, was extended to Damour late last week, and now includes

virtually all ports south of Beirut.

Israel has not reacted to Lebanese pleas to the international community to lift the blockade, nor have official statements confirmed blockade, which is unofficially explained as a means to pressure the Beirut government to ease travel restrictions on residents of the south, as well as to cause discontent among the predominantly Shi'ite fishermen, most of whom live in Hizbullah-

ALON PINKAS

influenced areas.

Fishermen in Sidon said yesterday that an Israeli gunboat fired a machine gun into the air, at the time when two boats sailed at dawn.

They told news agencies that Israeli sailors warned them not to attempt to sail more than a kilometer offshore to reach their fishing grounds. Most fishing grounds in that area are located 3 km-5 km offshore.

Meanwhile, Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, a native of Sidon, has denounced the blockade as "terrorism."

The blockade affects an estimated 1,800 fishermen and their families. The total number of Lebanese relying on the fishing industry in the affected area exceeds 10,000.

However, according to news agencies reporting from Sidon, some fishermen sailed out overnight and reported no harassment.



Members of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations get a first-hand explanation about strategic issues from the army during a visit to the Golan Heights yesterday. However, Golan settlers boycotted a planned meeting with the group after it was moved from Katzrin to an army base and Golan settlers were banned from participating except for two lecturers. A representative of the visitors apologized to the settlers' Yehuda Harel and promised to meet with Harel and MK Avigdor Kahalani next week when the two visit the U.S. (Text: Tim/Photo: Yitzhak Elhanan/Scoop 80)

German envoy offers no news on Arad

A SENIOR German envoy brought no new information to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin yesterday on the whereabouts of missing navigator Ron Arad, a senior German official said.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl's foreign policy adviser Joachim Betterlich met with Rabin yesterday ostensibly to plan the June visit of Kohl, but Arad's fate was also discussed during their meeting.

Betterlich's visit was scheduled before the spate of articles in the German press about Arad.

A statement issued by the

DAVID MAKOVSKY

Prime Minister's bureau spokesman after the meeting said issues surrounding Arad's fate are outside the purview of Betterlich's authority.

German officials have made clear that Arad is the subject of a German-Iranian dialogue.

In remarks to reporters after meeting Rabin, Betterlich said people should separate the "humanitarian" issue of Arad from German-Iranian relations. Senior Israeli officials have voiced dis-

pleasure that Bonn agreed last year to a major rescheduling of Iranian debt, charging this eased the economic crisis facing Tehran and thereby weakened Western pressure on the regime.

During the Rabin-Betterlich meeting, the premier raised the possibility of Germany assisting Jordan in the construction of dams along the Yarmouk and Jordan rivers. When asked afterwards if Germany would consider Rabin's appeal, a senior German official replied "we have to look into it."

'Police keep list of those banned from Temple Mount'

BILL HUTMAN

FOR nearly a year, police kept a "black list" of right-wing extremists it would not allow onto the Temple Mount, according to convicted Jewish underground member Yehuda Etzion.

Etzion said police only last week stopped using the list, after the group he heads, *Hai V'Kayam*, threatened to petition the High Court over the matter.

Etzion said last Thursday he was allowed onto the Temple

Mount for the first time since the Machpela Cave massacre, after which the list was compiled.

Etzion vowed to return soon with other group members to again test police.

According to a police source, Jerusalem police legal adviser Dep.-Cmdr. Shaul Naim responded in writing recently to Etzion's allegations, saying, "The

list you hold has no meaning." Naim cited government decisions that "Jewish worshippers who come to the gates of the Temple Mount will be directed by the security forces to the Western Wall."

Etzion, who was imprisoned for trying to blow up the Aksa Mosque in the early 1980s, said police at the entrance to the Tem-

ple Mount would often check the IDs of Israeli visitors against a list of those forbidden inside.

"They would look through the list, and then tell you if you were allowed inside," Etzion said.

He alleged such a policy was illegal, and that list contained 100 names.

"*Hai V'Kayam* will continue to try and pray on the Temple Mount and ignore police attempts to stop it," Etzion said.

Rajoub bodyguard evades police again

BILL HUTMAN

PLANS by Jerusalem police to arrest the head bodyguard of Palestinian security chief Jibril Rajoub were foiled again yesterday, when he failed to make a scheduled court appearance in the capital.

The guard, Anwar Awad, is wanted by police in connection with alleged operations of the Palestinian security force in Jerusalem. He has remained in Jericho, working at Rajoub's headquarters, to avoid arrest.

Dozens of Border Police and detectives surrounded the district court building and waited for

Awad inside the court room.

Awad and two other bodyguards face charges in connection with the alleged kidnapping in September of Palestinian Television head Samih Samara, who claimed he was taken to Jericho for interrogation by the Palestinian authorities there.

Awad, summoned by police for interrogation on additional charges two weeks ago, is suspected of involvement in other Palestinian security service activity, according to police sources.

The Jerusalem police spokesman declined to comment on why police have not turned to the Liaison Office in Jericho to request Awad be turned over for interrogation.

The hearing was postponed when Awad did not show up, and was rescheduled for next week. The judge warned Awad's lawyer, Naela Aiyeh, the court would take action against her client if he did not appear.

The judge also demanded written proof Awad did not appear in court because he was not feeling well.

Team to check rights of J'lem absentee owners

LIAT COLLINS

PRIME Minister Rabin has apparently promised to appoint a professional team to investigate the rights of absentee landowners in eastern Jerusalem, in response to a request from Meretz MKs Dedi Zucker and Haim Oron.

Zucker said yesterday he had received a letter from Rabin which said the matter would be investigated, and the results of the Klugman Commission on east Jerusalem buildings would be presented to the security cabinet.

The two MKs had told Rabin that taking over buildings in eastern Jerusalem is illegal and those who use public funds to do so should be tried in court. They also called on Rabin to ensure that residents are not being forced from their homes "by extremist organizations such as Ateret Cohanim."

PA police chief: Still no order to clamp down

PLO chairman Yasser Arafat has still not ordered the disarming of rival militias, Gaza police commander Maj.-Gen. Nasser Yusef has been quoted as saying.

The statement repeats similar claims Yusef made last fall that he had not acted because he awaited Arafat's orders.

Nasser's comments came in a *Washington Post* story yesterday on Palestinian dissatisfaction with Arafat's rule in Gaza.

Asked why he has not disarmed Hamas, Nasser said: "You can check up there with the big man."

Hillel Kuttler

Kach: Dress as Goldstein for Purim

KACH yesterday urged youngsters to dress up like Baruch Goldstein for Purim.

In a leaflet distributed to Kach branches, the movement also said a contest should be held to determine the most original Goldstein costume.

Goldstein murdered 29 Arabs praying at the Machpela Cave last February.

Kach also urged people to portray Goldstein in a proper light - as "a soldier of the country."

(Reuters)

Lithuanian president arrives amid Holocaust controversy

DAVID MAKOVSKY

LITHUANIAN President Algirdas Brazauskas arrives today amid concern that his country may not be committed to rescinding exonerations of Lithuanians convicted by Soviet courts of involvement in the murder of Jews during the Holocaust.

"We have been led to believe there are around 5,000 Lithuanians involved in the murder of Jews during the Holocaust and convicted by the Soviets who were among those rehabilitated by the Lithuanian government in the last few years," said Ephraim

Zuroff, the Simon Wiesenthal Center's representative on an Israel-Lithuania commission investigating whether mass murderers were among an estimated 35,000-50,000 people Lithuania absolved of criminality four years ago.

The Foreign Ministry issued a statement yesterday saying that apart from trying to improve trade with Lithuania, it would raise the issue of rehabilitation of suspected Nazi war criminals.

Approximately 220,000 Lithuanian Jews were killed in the Holocaust.

GSS nabs terror ring

THE General Security Service has uncovered a Hebron-based Hamas terror ring suspected of planting two bombs in Beersheba's shuk last October 7, Southern District police commander Shimon Levy and Negev District commander Yosef Avni revealed yesterday.

One of the bombs was discovered and dismantled by police sappers, but the other went off. Fortunately, no one was injured.

The three members of the terror gang have confessed.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Woman dies in caravan blaze

An 80-year-old woman was killed Sunday night when a fire broke out in her caravan in the settlement of El David, near Bethlehem. Firefighters said the blaze was caused by an electrical short in her space heater.

litm

Pedestrian struck and killed by car

A man, 65, was hit by a car and killed while crossing the street at a crosswalk in Petah Tikva yesterday.

The accident occurred when a car stopped for the pedestrian and another car behind it passed on the right and hit the man, who suffered fatal injuries.

The license of the driver involved in the accident was suspended for 90 days pending investigation.

litm

Truck wrecks 11 cars in Tirat Carmel

A serious accident was averted yesterday when a tractor-trailer carrying a container weighing dozens of tons careened down busy Eizel Street in Tirat Carmel. The semitrailer hit and damaged 11 parked vehicles before it stopped. No one was hurt.

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Renowned tubaist Roger Bobo gives pointers to Moshe Parnes of the Kfar Sava Youth Orchestra yesterday, as part of his annual visit.

Bankers convicted in '83 crash begin appeal

THE Supreme Court yesterday began hearing the appeal of eight bankers convicted in Jerusalem District Court for their part in causing the 1983 bank shares collapse.

Yesterday's session, before Justices Dov Levin, Eliahu Mazza, Ya'acov Kedmi, Tova Strasberg-Cohen and Zvi Tal, focused on IDB Bankholding and its chairman Raphael Recanat; his son Udi who headed Bank Discount's stock operations before the crash; and Eli Cohen, then Discount's deputy chairman.

Lawyer Amnon Goldenberg, representing them, focused on the relationship between a criminal proceeding and that of a state commission of inquiry like the Bejski Commission, which had investigated the matter.

Goldenberg said the Bejski Commission had already punished his clients by recommending they be removed from their positions and banned from banking activities, and should not have exposed them to the criminal proceedings.

He also said the accused and other witnesses were called in for questioning without being told their testimony could be used against them, "an elementary warning due every person being interrogated in any [legal] proceeding."

Although the district court ruled that the lack of a

warning was due to a "lack of communication" between the police and the State Attorney's office, Goldenberg disputed this. He claimed that according to testimony in the case, the guidelines regarding privileged testimony in the Commissions of Inquiry Law were ignored, allowing information from the Bejski Commission to be easily used in the criminal proceeding.

Goldenberg presented the court with various Western models regarding criminal proceedings following an investigation by a commission of inquiry, noting that in those systems, either such criminal proceedings are not permitted, or, in the English model, legal guarantees banning use of testimony from the commission's hearings are given.

He noted that Western legal procedures "take a grave view of putting someone on trial after his case has been discussed by an inquiry commission, and personal recommendations have been made about them."

Goldenberg said the commission's recommendations against his clients were enough of a punishment. "I ask this court to rule that there is a limit to how much one can persecute an individual," he said.

He added that District Court Judge Miriam Naor's ruling "does not show sufficient sensitivity to the respect for a person's fundamental rights." (Jm)

Bezek workers to strike over plans to break monopoly on overseas calls

BEZEK'S 8,000 workers plan to begin a strike on Thursday to protest the government's plans to break the company's monopoly on overseas call services. Workers' assemblies in preparation for the strike will be held tomorrow between 10 a.m. and noon.

Union leaders said yesterday that all Bezek services would be affected by the strike except for TV and radio transmitters, which will function as usual. But Bezek offices will be closed, no telephone repairs will be made and the information service and overseas operators will not answer.

The union claims that if other companies are allowed to provide international call services, Bezek will lose money and have to fire

JUDY SIEGEL

4,000 employees.

Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni met yesterday with union representatives and with Amir Peretz, the Histadrut trade union chief, who has voiced his support for their struggle.

She told them that the decision to open international dialing to competition was passed by the ministerial committee on privatization in February 1993, and that in March 1994, Bezek was informed that it must itself establish a subsidiary to supply overseas dialing services for Bezek. Since then, the union has tried to force a delay in the issue of the tender for a second company.

Aloni committed the government to compensating Bezek for the loss of part of the market and ensuring a profit on its rates. She also promised that the pension rights of those workers who opted for early retirement would be protected.

Meanwhile, the ministry yesterday issued a draft of regulations regarding approval of peripheral telephone equipment for use in Israel's telecommunications system. The ministry said the new rules will speed up the approval process of equipment that is imported and manufactured here. The ministry will determine only which equipment is compatible with local infrastructure, but not its quality.

Man barred from remarriage without divorce

HERB KEINON

men to take second wives, most in cases where they were unable to give a writ of divorce to their first wife.

The woman who filed the petition is married to one of these men, but her case did not fall into the category of a woman who could not be given a get.

In her petition, Na'amat lawyer Etti Pilpel said that the man despised his wife because of his earnings for his deceased first wife, and because the petitioner did not bear him a male child.

The woman agreed at one stage to a divorce, but claims that the man did not accept the settlement terms.

According to Pilpel, for permission to be given to take a second wife, the existing wife must either be ill or have disappeared.

Furthermore, Pilpel wrote that according to Rabbi Gershon, a 10th-century halachic authority, in extreme cases a man could take another wife if he receives the signature of 100 rabbis. Pilpel wrote that she does not think that

such a document signed by 100 rabbis exists in this case, and if it does, she doubts that each rabbi looked into the case.

The lawyer also wrote that Bakshi-Doron did not ever hear the woman's side of the story.

Na'amat head Ofra Friedman said that this is the first time a case like this has reached the High Court, and that it could set a precedent that would deter rabbis from granting these permissions as readily as they have.

Permission for a man to take a second wife is given an average of 13 times a year.

Taibe mayor declines offer of ambassadorship

Beilin stresses importance of finding suitable Israeli Arab candidate

DAVID MAKOVSKY

TAIBE Mayor Rafik Haj Yihye yesterday took himself out of the running to become Israel's next ambassador to Finland.

"It was personally very, very important to me, and certainly to the Foreign Minister, that we find a suitable (Israeli Arab) candidate," a disappointed Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin told Israel Radio.

He noted that for the last two-and-a-half years, the government has been seeking an Arab ambassadorial candidate. "I must say it is proving very difficult to ensure that Israeli Arabs are engaged at the highest levels of government," he added.

Sources say the main problem has come from pressure from within the Israeli Arab community not to have its leaders represent the Jewish state abroad.

Yihye informed Beilin that he was bowing out, and explained his decision by saying that he wanted to devote his energies to his current

post. Foreign Ministry officials said Yihye recently found himself at the center of controversy, when he was reported to have said that he did not see why giving one's wife an

occasional slap is so terrible. He subsequently denied having said this, and denounced wife beating. Before Yihye was offered the post, an older relative of his was also

asked if he would consider the position. He accepted, only to retract soon after, amid pressure from the Israeli Arab community.

When asked what Israel would do now, a Foreign Ministry official said, "We are back to square one."

Kedma school finds a home in capital

THE Jerusalem Municipality has agreed to provide a permanent site for the Kedma school in the Patt neighborhood, after a half-year long battle during which the school changed premises and went on strike.

The school was set up by a group of parents from Patt with the aim of providing excellent education with a Mizrahi (Oriental) emphasis to small classes of seventh graders. It opened at the

BATSHEVA TSUR

beginning of the school year in a converted bank in the nearby Gillo quarter.

However, the municipality ordered the school to move to the Talpiot industrial zone after neighbors complained it was located in a residential building and the noise disturbed them. In November, it was transferred to Talpiot.

Meanwhile, a pedagogic committee which studied the progress of the pupils in mathematics and Hebrew found they had reached a good standard by last month, although most of the pupils had come from very weak classes in other schools.

Yesterday, the municipality officially recognized the school, entitling it to all facilities and agreeing to locate it in Patt, the spokesperson said.

IBA to reassess shortwave budget cuts

CUTBACKS in English and French shortwave broadcasts are on the agenda for tomorrow's meeting of the IBA plenum.

Convened at the insistence of plenum members Yossi Frenkel and Rachel Kremerman, the plenum will discuss the cutbacks which went into effect on January

HELEN KAYE

22. Each language's airtime has gone down to 55 minutes daily and transmission now ends at 10:30 p.m., instead of 1 a.m.

"I will suggest that shortwave broadcasts be discussed within the framework of the entire

broadcast schedule," said Frenkel, "and until the '95 schedule is finalized the cuts should be rescinded."

He went on to say that making one-sided cuts is discriminatory and frivolous and that the schedule needed to be seen as a whole before any cuts were made.

Ministry of Immigrant Absorption

Announcement by the Ministry of Immigrant Absorption

New immigrants whose health insurance coverage was arranged by the Ministry up to the time the new National Health Insurance Law came into effect, and who have already paid their health dues for January 1995 and following months, are entitled to a refund for those months.

To apply for refunds, immigrants should bring the original receipts of payment to their nearest branch of the Ministry before March 15, 1994. No requests for refunds submitted after that date will be accepted.

Immigrants will not be reimbursed immediately, but payment will be made as soon as possible.

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Increase in Passenger Fares
as approved by the Government

In accordance with a permit, issued under the Stability of the Cost of Services (Bus Fares) Order, fares on Egged bus routes will be increased by an average of 7.7%, effective March 1, 1995.

Unused return and transfer tickets, held by members of the public after the date of the increase in fares, can be used, provided the ticket holder pays the difference in the fare, at any Egged ticket office. After the above date,

a transfer ticket which has been used on one leg of a journey will become invalid.

A return ticket which has been used for a "go" journey before the above date may be used for the return journey up to March 14, 1995, without payment of the fare difference. After this date, the ticket will become invalid, but half the cost of the ticket will be refunded to the holder, if he applies to one of the Egged ticket offices listed below:

Jerusalem: Central Bus Station
Haifa: Egged House, Central Bus Station
Tel Aviv: Ticket office near the information bureau, new Central Bus Station (Floor 6)

Alternatively, a refund may be obtained, by sending the ticket to one of these Public Relations Department offices:

P.O.B. 13178, Jerusalem 91131
P.O.B. 8657, Haifa 31086
P.O.B. 33091, Tel Aviv 61330

Further particulars can be obtained from Egged information bureaus, and the Egged national information centers:

* Tel Aviv, 03-5375555
* Jerusalem, 02-304555
* Haifa, 04-549555

Israel's Transportation

With the approval of the Supervisor of Road Transport
Liaison Office/Spokesman's Bureau

Defense hoping Rosa Lopez can save Simpson

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Despite the fancy lawyers with their snazzy courtroom graphics and top-flight DNA experts, the outcome of the O.J. Simpson murder trial may rest on the credibility of a housekeeper who wants to flee.

Rosa Lopez, a potential alibi witness who used to work next door to the American football hero, reluctantly and tearfully agreed to return to court yesterday to testify for the defense rather than flee to her native El Salvador.

In a highly unusual move, Superior Court Judge Lance Ito agreed to interrupt the prosecution's presentation against Simpson and permit Lopez to testify ahead of schedule in Simpson's defense.

Lopez' testimony could provide Simpson with an alibi and further sully the reputation of Detective Mark Fuhrman, whom the defense may try to paint as a racist bent on framing Simpson for the murders.

Lopez told defense lawyers Simpson's Bronco was parked outside his house June 12 about the time prosecutors claim he murdered Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman.

Lopez also told them she relayed this information to Fuhrman the day after the killings, yet nobody ever followed up with her.

But in the grueling daylong hearing Friday, the prosecution caught Lopez in several lies and by the end of the day she was an emotional wreck. Prosecutors said they looked forward to cross-examining her in front of a jury.

Lopez complained of harassment by the news media, and told the judge she planned to leave for El Salvador Saturday night. After he threatened to jail her over the weekend, she agreed to remain at least through yesterday.

Russian immigrants shot dead in Paris

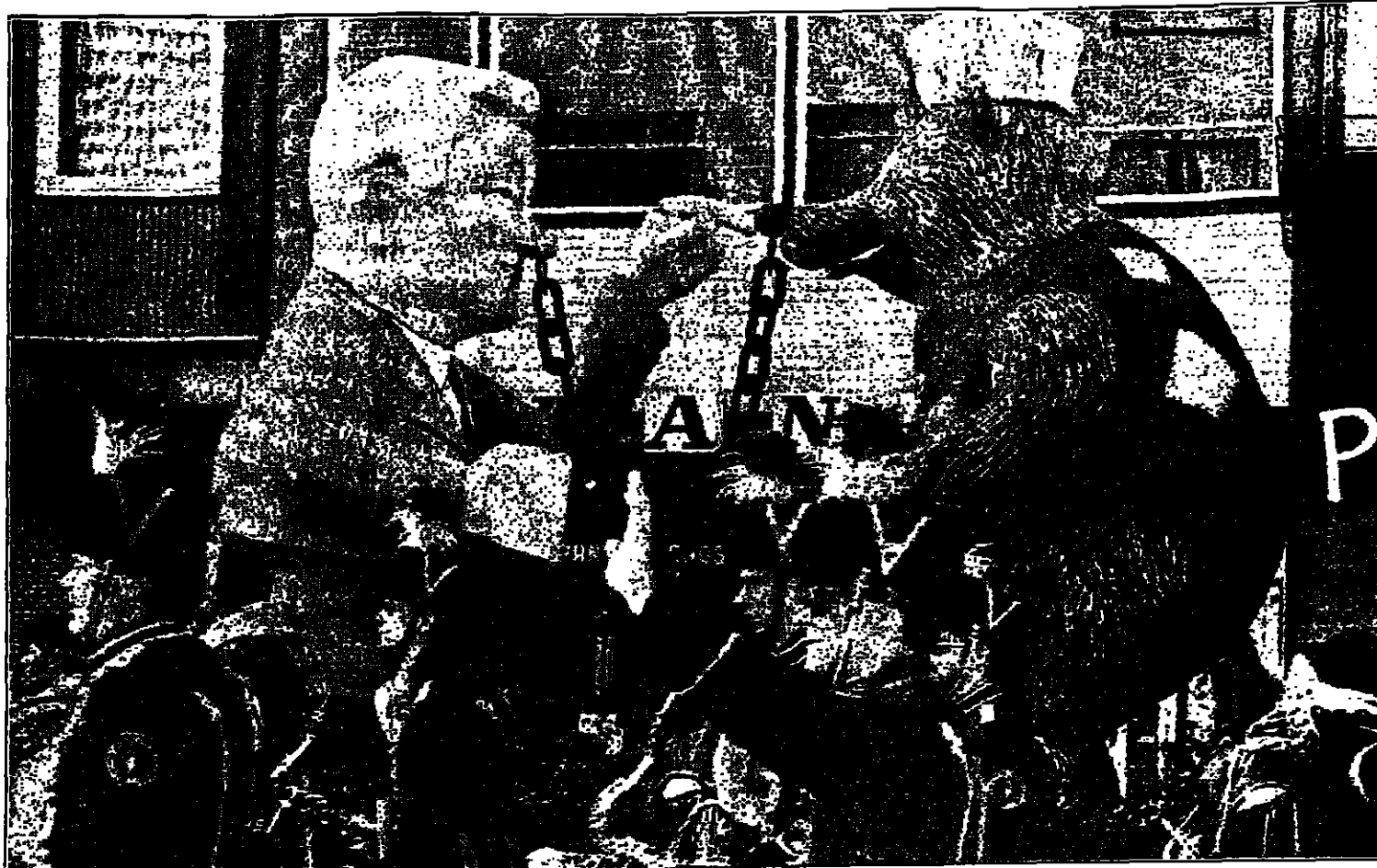
VERSAILLES (AP) — Six Russian immigrants were found shot dead yesterday at a house in a Paris suburb, and authorities said a 19-year-old son confessed to the killings.

Those killed, according to police, were wood merchant Eugene Polevoi and his wife; the parents of Mrs. Polevoi; and another couple that were friends of the family.

Police were alerted before dawn by the Polevois' 16-year-old son, who confessed to the killings and was taken into custody. The teenager had had an argument with his parents, and the slayings occurred while the victims were having tea before bed, police said on customary anonymity.

The youth's 3-year-old half-sister, hidden under blankets, was found unharmed at the house in Louveciennes on the western outskirts of Paris.

Police investigators said the firearms used were part of a gun collection.



A float carrying papier mache dolls of Russian President Boris Yeltsin and a Russian bear parades down a Cologne street yesterday. The annual carnival in the German city, recently paralyzed by floods, ends tomorrow. (Reuters)

Demirel's Sarajevo trip off after Serbs fail to guarantee his safety

LIAM McDOWALL
SARAJEVO

SERB gunmen and UN peacekeepers exchanged gunfire at Sarajevo airport yesterday, just 20 minutes after a plane carrying Turkish President Suleyman Demirel was to arrive.

In a related incident, a C-160 transport plane that "could have been mistaken for that of Demirel's" was locked onto by an anti-aircraft missile system while over Bosnian Serb-held territory, a UN official told The Associated Press, on condition of anonymity.

The incidents came just hours after the United Nations announced that Demirel's visit to the Bosnian capital was canceled because Serbs had refused to guarantee his plane safe passage. Lt. Col. Gary Coward, a UN spokesman, said a weekend small-arms attack on a UN aircraft also played a role in deciding to scrub the visit.

The cancellation demonstrated anew the vulnerability of the international community to the Bosnian Serbs, who have anti-aircraft missile systems that can target planes approaching Sarajevo. However, both Serbs and Bosnian government troops have been accused of shooting at planes at the UN controlled airport during the course of the 3-year-old war, often forcing

closure of the airstrip.

Capt. Myriam Socachy, a UN spokeswoman, said Serb gunmen targeted the Sarajevo airport 20 minutes after the plane carrying Demirel was supposed to touch down, forcing UN peacekeepers to return fire.

The UN official, who spoke anonymously, called the lock-on of the German Transal C-160 a "hostile act" and said it occurred about the same time as Demirel was to have flown to the Bosnian capital. A UN investigation was underway.

Coward noted a "marked increase" in Bosnian Serb shelling overnight yesterday around the government-held Hrasnica suburb of Sarajevo, which abuts the airport. Bosnian radio said one woman was killed in the shelling and several buildings were badly damaged.

Adding to tensions in the capital, at least five people riding the streetcar were wounded by bursts of automatic weapons fire, forcing sus-

pension of tram service.

And SRNA, the Bosnian Serb news service, reported that a government sniper wounded an elderly Serb man in the Serb-held suburb of Grbavica. The attacks further tattered an already porous cease-fire, meant to last until the end of April.

The hazards of life in Sarajevo were also underscored when two teen-age boys were wounded Sunday in an upsurge of sniping near the UN-controlled airport. A Bosnian government soldier was also wounded in another Sarajevo suburb Sunday.

With Sarajevo scratched, Demirel flew directly to Zenica. The Turkish president originally had planned to depart for Zenica, the central Bosnian town where nearly 1,500 Turkish peacekeepers are based, from the Bosnian capital.

Demirel, whose country is a key supporter of the Muslim-led Bosnian government, had planned to meet with President Alija Izetbegovic and top UN military commanders in Sarajevo, as well as addressing a session of the country's parliament. (AP)

Moslem terrorist dies planting Ankara bomb

ANKARA (Reuters) — A Turkish Islamist militant was killed yesterday by a bomb he was trying to plant at a private secular society, police said.

The man was fixing the bomb inside a washroom at the Ataturk Ideology Association in central Ankara, police said.

They identified the dead man as Cahit Ayaz, an employee of the State Statistics Institute. They said he was linked to IBDA-C (Islamic Great Eastern Raiders Front), a fundamentalist group involved in several major attacks and foiled assassination plots.

The Ataturk association is a private grouping of Turks embracing the secular principles of Mustafa

Kemal Ataturk, the founder of modern Turkey.

Meanwhile, in Istanbul, opponents of Turkey's strict limits on freedom of expression said yesterday they plan to challenge the laws by publishing a book of articles by writers who have been imprisoned for their ideas.

The first edition of the book, which will come out this week, will bear the signatures of about 1,000 people who will accept legal responsibility for its contents.

"By putting out this book, we will force the state to either put us all in prison or change the legislation," said Sanar Yurdutapan, a campaign spokesman.

Under Turkish law, both writers

and publishers can be imprisoned for books that violate limits on freedom of expression, usually concerning statements made about the country's Kurdish minority.

There has been an upsurge in cases against critics of Turkey's policies towards its Kurds and the 10-year Kurdish insurgency war in the southeast. More than 14,000 people have died in the fighting.

Political analysts say Ankara is taking a harsher line because dissent is growing over the government's refusal to grant Kurds greater political and cultural freedoms. This drive has renewed anxiety in the West over Turkey's rights record.

This campaign is one of the first

examples of a widespread act of civil disobedience against freedom of expression laws, under which more than 100 people, among them lawyers, journalists and professors, are currently in prison.

The campaign took root in late January, when an Istanbul court decided to open a case against Yasar Kemal, one of Turkey's best-known writers.

Kemal is charged with separatist propaganda for an article in the German *Der Spiegel* accusing the government of using a "campaign of lies" to justify massive oppression of its Kurds.

"For us, the case against Yasar Kemal was the last straw," Yurdutapan said.

China steamrolls counterfeiters out of business

CANTON (AP) — When the speeches were over, a steamroller trundled into Cultural Park and the air filled with the splintering sound of doomed compact discs.

The steamroller stunt was the high point of "Protect CD Copyrights Promotion Day" in Guangdong, the southern Chinese province regarded as a serious offender in the copyright piracy that nearly plunged China and the United States into a trade war.

The event in Canton, the Guangdong capital, was devoted to enlisting the Chinese public in the war on counterfeiting.

It coincided with US-Chinese negotiations in Beijing that ended in a last-minute agreement whereby China promised to crack down on piracy and both sides lifted their threat of trade sanctions.

Guests of honor at the park included the US consul in Canton, G. Eugene Martin, and the province's vice governor, Li Lanfang, who said in a speech that the steamroller CDs demonstrated the authorities' "goal of cleaning piracy out of the cultural markets."

Billboards at the park featured Lei Kwei, a legendary medieval tiger-slayer, wielding his huge axes on a fake CD.

A banner on the steamroller's

front said: "Protect intellectual property — punish piracy."

Booths at the park featured spot-the-fake competitions, with prizes of non-pirated CDs for the winners.

Although the steamroller CDs numbered tens of thousands, they were just a fraction of the 75 million pirated discs that the Americans say are being churned out yearly in China.

The settlement reached in Beijing brought sighs of relief from China's major Asian trading partners.

"We hail the agreement," said Masatoshi Tsuchiya of the Japan Electronic Industry Development Association.

However, he criticized the use of the sanctions threat as a negotiating weapon, saying Japan had suffered similar treatment from the United States.

Hong Kong, the major clearing house for Chinese exports, had feared sanctions would affect up to 4,700 jobs in the British colony and shave 0.14 percentage point off its 1995 growth.

"We warmly welcome the agreement," Trade Secretary Brian Chow said on Hong Kong radio, noting that China and the United States were Hong Kong's biggest trading partners.

British teenaged runaway flies home from Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR (Reuters) — A 14-year-old British boy was on his way home to London last night after he ran away to Malaysia using his father's passport and credit card, airline officials said.

Malaysia's Deputy Home Minister Megat Junid Megat Ayob said Peter Kerry would be allowed to leave "on humanitarian grounds".

"It's a small issue. Let the British Home Minister and (Malaysian) immigration work out the matter," he said.

"The boy is a minor. Let's send him back as soon as possible."

A spokesman for Malaysian Airlines said Peter Kerry has a confirmed seat on the midnight flight to London.

Kerry, now in the custody of the British High Commission, bluffed his way past immigration in Britain and Malaysia using his father's passport on an odyssey that began after a family quarrel over a spilled can of spaghetti.

He was discovered Sunday night by Malaysian residents in the northern town of Kota Baru, who took him to the home of a Briton.

A British doctor, Nicholas Jackson, said he took the boy into his home in Kota Baru after Kerry was found by a Malaysian resident. Kerry, wearing a blue baseball cap, looked fit but a little glum on arriving at Kuala Lumpur International Airport from Kota Baru. He said nothing to reporters.

Critics name 'Stone Diaries' best fiction

NEW YORK (AP) — The National Book Critics Circle awarded its 1994 fiction prize yesterday to Carol Shields' *The Stone Diaries*, a tender and witty portrait of an unassuming woman growing old in the 20th century.

The winner for general nonfiction was *The Rape of Europa: The Fate of Europe's Treasures in the Third Reich and the Second World War* by Lynn H. Nicholas. The book, published by Knopf, is a landmark study of the fate of Europe's paintings and other cultural treasures in Hitler's Germany.

The organization's poetry prize

was awarded to Mark Rudman for *Rider* (Wesleyan University Press), a meditation on family connections and missteps.

The biography award went to magazine writer Mikal Gilmore for *Shot in the Heart* (Doubleday), a personal narrative of his family's history of problems. He's the brother of murderer Gary Gilmore, who was executed by a firing squad in Utah in 1977.

The National Book Critics Circle comprises about 600 newspaper and magazine editors and reviewers, academics and free-lance critics. The winners were chosen by its 24-member board.

ISRAEL LANDS ADMINISTRATION

Israel Lands Adm. Southern Region Arim, Municipal Development Co. Ltd Min. of Construction and Housing Southern Region

Dimona Municipality Build Your Own Home Project (143 housing units)

In cooperation with Dimona Municipality and Arim, Municipal Development Co., the Israel Lands Administration and the Ministry of Construction and Housing announces the above scheme, under which 143 plots will be allocated for the construction of 143 single-family housing units.

Fifteen of the plots are intended for the disabled, who do not own, and who have not been allocated a plot anywhere in Israel. The following criteria apply: Ex-IDF disabled persons with over 50% permanent disability; this disability must be attested by documentation, valid for one year and issued by the Rehabilitation Branch of the Min. of Defense. Disabled persons, who are not IDF disabled, who suffer permanent disability of 75% in the lower limbs, as attested by valid documentation issued by the National Insurance Institute or the Min. of Health.

Of the plots for the disabled, first priority will be given to IDF disabled with 100% or more disability. Priority will be given to the disabled for choice of plot.

Registration will be held at the offices of Arim Co., Rassco Center, Room 231, Beersheba, Tel. 07-234734.

Registration will open on Wednesday, March 8, 1995 at 8:30 a.m. and will continue Sunday to Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., and Monday and Wednesday, also 4:00-6:00 p.m. Registration will close at 12 noon on April 11, 1995.

On Fridays and on March 18, 1995, the office will be closed. When registering, you must deposit a bank check/guarantee for NIS3,000, made out to the Israel Lands Administration, which will be regarded as a deposit on the cost of the land. A detailed prospectus is available free of charge from March 8, 1995, at the above address at the above hours.

Israel Lands Adm. Southern Region Shikun U'Pituah LEISRAEL LTD. Ministry of Con. and Housing Negev Region

Sderot Local Council Build Your Own Home Project: Mem-3 Quarter, Sderot (12 housing units) (Remaining Plots)

From the above scheme, which was announced in the past, 9 plots remain in the Mem-3 Quarter for the construction of 9 single-family houses, and 3 plots in Naftali Quarter Peretz, for the construction of 3 single-family houses.

The plots will be allocated with updated values for the cost of the land and the development. The development costs will be paid to the Shikun U'Pituah Co. All other details remain as published in the prospectus, subject to the terms of the present notice.

Registration will open at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, March 6, 1995, and close at 10 a.m. the same day, at which time a draw will be held among those who have registered.

Registration will take place at the offices of the Israel Lands Administration, Southern Region, Ben Zvi St. (above Yahalom Hall), Beersheba, Tel. 07-232202. When registering, you must deposit a bank check for NIS1,000, made out to the Israel Lands Administration; this will be regarded as an advance payment on the cost of the land.

Any plots remaining after the above registration will be allocated at the above address, on a first come, first served basis, till all plots are sold, but not after June 6, 1995.

Israel Lands Adm. Central Region Elyakhin Local Council Arim, Municipal Dev. Corp. Ltd.

Build Your Own Home - Elyakhin (108 Housing Units)

In cooperation with the Elyakhin Local Council and Arim, Municipal Development Co., the Israel Lands Administration announces the above scheme, under which 50 plots will be allocated for the construction of 50 single-family housing units, and 58 plots for the construction of 58 semi-detached housing units.

Eleven of the plots are intended for the disabled, who do not own, and who have not been allocated a plot anywhere in Israel. The following criteria apply: Ex-IDF disabled persons with over 50% permanent disability; this disability must be attested by documentation, valid for one year and issued by the Rehabilitation Branch of the Min. of Defense. Disabled persons, who are not IDF disabled, who suffer permanent disability of 75% in the lower limbs, as attested by valid documentation issued by the National Insurance Institute or the Min. of Health.

Of the plots for the disabled, first priority will be given to IDF disabled with 100% or more disability.

For 27 of the plots, priority will be given to residents of Elyakhin, above the age of 18, who do not stand to inherit property, and/or a *meshek ezer*, and/or a plot for construction in the settlement. These residents must sign a declaration attached to the prospectus and obtain confirmation in writing from the Ministry of the Interior / Population Census showing that they have lived in Elyakhin from at least March 8, 1995 up to the time of the draw. Priority in choice of plot will be given to the disabled.

Registration will be held at the offices of Elyakhin Local Council, Shabazi St., Elyakhin, under the supervision of the Arim Company, on Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. and Tuesday, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Tel. 08-365840. Prospectuses will be also distributed at these times.

Registration will open on Wednesday, March 8, 1995 at 8 a.m. and will close on Thursday, April 6, 1995 at 12 noon. On March 21, 1995 and April 3, 1995 there will be tours of the site, leaving from the Local Council Building at 2 p.m.

When registering, you must deposit a bank check/guarantee for NIS5,000, made out to the Israel Lands Administration, which will be regarded as a deposit on the cost of the land. A detailed prospectus will be available free of charge at the Elyakhin Local Council offices, from March 8, 1995, at the above address and the above hours.

Israel Lands Adm. Southern Region

Shikun U'Pituah LEISRAEL LTD.

Ministry of Con. and Housing Negev Region

MITZPE RAMON Local Council

Build Your Own Home Project: Mitzpe Ramon (11 Housing Units) (Remaining Plots)

From the above scheme, which was announced in the past, 11 plots remain for the construction of single-family houses.

The plots will be allocated with updated values for the cost of the land and the development. The development costs will be paid to the Shikun U'Pituah Co. All other details remain as published in the prospectus, subject to the terms of the present notice.

Registration will open at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 8, 1995, and close at 10 a.m. the same day, at which time a draw will be held among those who have registered.

Registration will be at the offices of the Israel Lands Administration, Southern Region, Ben Zvi St. (above Yahalom Hall), Beersheba, Tel. 07-232202.

When registering, you must deposit a bank check for NIS1,000, made out to the Israel Lands Administration; this will be regarded as an advance payment on the cost of the land.

Any plots remaining after the above registration will be allocated on a first come, first served basis, at the above address, till all plots are sold, but not after June 8, 1995.

Israel Lands Adm. Northern Region

Shikun U'Pituah Beisrael LTD.

Min. of Construction and Housing Galilee Region

Kiryat Shmona Municipality Build Your Own Home Project: Havradim Quarter, Kiryat Shmona (38 Housing Units)

In cooperation with Shikun U'Pituah and the Kiryat Shmona Municipality, the Israel Lands Administration and Ministry of Construction and Housing announce that the draw is postponed to March 12, 1995 at 1 p.m. The draw and selection of plots will be held in the presence of those registering in the Arthur Fuchs Community Center in Kiryat Shmona, as not as published.

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הכרזת האכיזה

28 1995 The Jerusalem Post
a steamrolls
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Stone Diaries' best fiction

מקראות

Russians bombard Chechens, tighten grip on Grozny

GROZNY, Russia (Reuters) - Russian forces shelled Chechen positions near the capital Grozny yesterday and the Russian government said its troops had thrown a second defense cordon around the crushed city.

But the Chechens' chief commander, Aslan Maskhadov, said his separatist forces, who have been fighting Russian troops since December 11, were now "much stronger than when we started - in both spirit and organization."

"Our tactic is to fight very close to them. The Russians use airplanes and artillery and try to fight at long distance. We try to get close so they can't use those weapons," Maskhadov told reporters.

Russian big guns opened up on Chechen positions south of Grozny shortly after dawn yesterday following an overnight lull. On Sunday they bombarded separatist forces in the town of Argun just to the east of the capital.

Interfax news agency quoted the government press service in Moscow as saying in the past 48 hours Russian forces had clamped a second ring around Grozny, which they captured two weeks ago.

Interior ministry troops would begin shortly to eliminate separatist fighters remaining in the shattered city, it said, adding that the Chechens were now mainly concentrated in Argun and Gudermes further to the east.

Maskhadov's defense of Grozny had the virtue in Chechen eyes of being a long, drawn-out affair rather than a rout, and it led to him being promoted to general.

Chechen infiltrators are now harassing Grozny's Russian occupiers with nightly sniping and commando raids.

President Boris Yeltsin's personal envoy, First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets, meanwhile left Moscow for the north Caucasus and Interfax news agency said he was expected to visit Grozny to review ways of restoring Chechnya's economy.

If the visit takes place, Soskovets would be the most senior Russian official to visit Chechnya since Yeltsin sent in troops for what was expected to be a quick military foray to crush the region's push for independence.

But the offensive quickly bogged down and Russia's main human rights body now says more than 24,000 civilians from Grozny alone have died.

The defense ministry, whose top officials are due to discuss the campaign today with the armed forces command in Moscow, says more than 1,100 servicemen have been killed.

Fresh international criticism of Russian forces came on Sunday from a group of Human Rights Watch/Helsinki researchers.

In a report based on a 10-day field investigation, the group said Russian forces were committing gross abuses against the civilian population and using disproportionate force to dislodge Chechen fighters from villages.

"Undisciplined Russian soldiers attack civilians, systematically loot civilian property and rob individual citizens," it said.



US Marines, part of an advance landing party on the beaches of Mogadishu, come ashore as a Pakistani UN peacekeeper keeps guard behind a machine gun.

US Marines land in Somalia

MOGADISHU (AP) - American Marines came ashore in Mogadishu for the second time in two years yesterday, returning to protect retreating UN peacekeepers.

About 150 Marines landed on a beach at the city's seaside airport by helicopter and Helicat air cushion vessels to set up headquarters and mark landing routes for 2,000 others to follow.

US commanders would not say when the rest of the troops would come ashore, but their arrival was clearly imminent.

In Washington, Pentagon spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Scott Campbell said the Marines who went ashore yesterday were part of a reconnaissance mission and said the main withdrawal operation had not begun.

The Somali capital appeared relatively calm in advance of the main force landing by US and Italian marines.

The Marines were not landing on a hostile beach. The airport and nearby sea port were in the hands of UN peacekeepers, who have been keeping away children, scavengers and the curious for days.

Although they prepared for the possibility, commanders of the seven-nation US-led forces did not expect a direct confrontation with Somali militia.

Instead, the biggest threat appeared to be from stray bullets, mortars and rocket-propelled grenades fired by warring militias.

Stray rounds fell at the airport Sunday as

the militias battled for several hours just beyond the main gate. A Somali policeman was slightly wounded.

"Yesterday was a typical Somalia day, a little shooting, but it wasn't aimed at us," said Army Col. John Latimer of Rock Hill, S.C., who has been in Mogadishu five weeks as head of an advance team.

"Some of the press guys made it sound like Armageddon, but it wasn't," he said. "My wife probably thinks she's going to collect my insurance, but she won't."

Another clan fight broke out yesterday farther from the port and airport. Shots and explosions could be heard, but far fewer stray rounds appeared to be striking near US and UN positions.

The United States and its Italian, French, British and Malaysian allies put together a force of 14,000 troops, more than half Americans, to provide a rear guard for the withdrawal of the last 2,400 Pakistani and Bangladeshi peacekeepers.

That force has been on 32 ships off Somalia for more than a week, reviewing plans and practicing for the amphibious retreat.

Commanding the coalition was Marine Lt. Gen. Anthony C. Zinni, one of the chief planners of the first US-led intervention in Somalia.

The remaining Pakistani and Bangladeshi UN peacekeepers were the last of a force that once numbered 38,000 from 21 nations.

American Marines first came to Somalia on Dec. 8, 1992, part of another US-led military coalition sent to save the Horn of Africa nation from war and famine.

An estimated 350,000 Somalis had died, and the United Nations said 1 million more could perish if rampant banditry and militia fighting were not halted and food delivered to the starving.

The United States and its allies largely completed that task, saving tens of thousands of lives. Washington then turned over the humanitarian mission to the United Nations in March 1993. The emphasis quickly shifted to reconstruction, with the hope of establishing a democratic government.

That effort failed, mired in mismanagement and the intransigence of Somali warlords. The humanitarian effort became a low-grade war between clan militias and UN forces.

The United Nations leaves Somalia no closer to democracy than when it arrived. The country has been without a government since former dictator Mohamed Siad Barre was overthrown in January 1991.

The United States withdrew its soldiers from the UN mission in March 1994, five months after 18 American servicemen were killed in a street battle with the militia of warlord Gen. Mohamed Farrah Aidid.

In all, 42 Americans died in Somalia, 30 in combat. More than 100 other peacekeepers also died.

Car bomb in Zakho kills 54 Kurds

ANKARA (Reuters) - A powerful car bomb exploded in a crowded market street in the Kurdish-controlled Iraqi city of Zakho yesterday, killing at least 54 people and wounding up to 80 more, Western and Turkish officials said.

The blast occurred at the part of Zakho called the financial district at 8:18 a.m., US Lieutenant Christopher Leist said from Incirlik air base, home to the Western allied force protecting Kurds in northern Iraq from a possible attack by Baghdad.

"At least 54 people are dead but the death toll could rise. Up to 80 people are injured, 15 seriously," he said. Western aid workers and local Kurdish officials said they feared the death toll could go higher.

It was not immediately clear who was behind the blast, which follows renewed tensions between the rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP), the area's dominant factions.

A PUK statement, sent by fax to Reuters, pointed at Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, whose forces have been shut out of the region by Western air power.

"Those powers seeking to perpetuate the in-fighting among the Kurds, and in particular the Saddam Hussein regime, are prime suspects behind this atrocity," the statement said.

Relief workers reported from the region that the blast struck a crowded commercial street lined with traders.

A Turkish foreign ministry official confirmed the explosion and said he was concerned Turkish truck drivers who regularly pass through Zakho could be among the casualties.

Local journalists in southeastern Turkey said two Turks had been killed. Three others injured in the blast were driven to Turkey for medical treatment.

"As to the reason behind the blast, we cannot speculate," the foreign ministry official said.

Incirlik, in southern Turkey, is the centre of Operation Provide Comfort, the allied effort to shield Iraq's Kurds. The operation keeps a liaison office in Zakho.

Northern Iraq has been locked in factional fighting since mid-December between the forces of the KDP, led by Masoud Barzani, and the PUK of Jalal Talabani.

Endangered tiger brings Indochina states together

HANOI (AP) - Wildlife experts from Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia will cooperate for the first time to try to save the region's dwindling tiger population, a conservation group official said yesterday.

Tiger specialists will meet in Hanoi tomorrow for three days of talks aimed at protecting the animals from poachers and stopping regional trade in their bones, said Elizabeth Kempf of the Worldwide Fund for Nature.

"This meeting is a last-ditch effort to save the Indochinese tiger from extinction before the turn of the century," Kempf told The Associated Press.

The fund, based in Gland, Switzerland, helped organize the meeting.

Kempf estimates that Vietnam is home to only 200-300 tigers. Cambodia may have another 100-200, while the number in Laos is unknown, she said. The Indochinese tiger, a subspecies that used to number in the thousands, travels back and forth across the borders of all three countries, creating the

need for a regional effort to try to save them, Kempf said.

Tigers still live in the wild in 14 countries in Asia, from India to South Korea. Three tiger subspecies have died out since World War II and only five remain, she said.

Many tigers are killed for their bones and body parts, which are popular ingredients in Chinese folk medicines. Practitioners prescribe a tonic made of pulverized tiger bones, for example, as a cure for rheumatism, Kempf said.

"We want to work with traditional healers to encourage them to suspend use," she added.

Rising incomes among Vietnam's 72 million people mean the Vietnamese market for tiger parts is likely to increase and overwhelm the animals remaining in the region, she said. Cambodia and Laos have much smaller populations.

Countries adhering to the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species agreed last November to eliminate the cross-border trade in tiger parts.

Eiffel Tower shut down by right-wing rally

PARIS (AP) - Employees at the Eiffel Tower closed the monument yesterday, protesting the use of the tower grounds for a rally by the far-right National Front.

The party, which advocates expelling 3 million immigrants from France, is embroiled in controversy because three of its activists have been jailed for the killing of a 17-year-old African immigrant in Marseille last week.

The National Front's leader and presidential candidate, Jean-Marie Le Pen, told the rally that his party wished to campaign peacefully, but that members "will defend themselves if attacked."

The front claims the three jailed activists fired in self-defense after being harassed by African youths while putting up campaign posters in a heavily immigrant Marseille neighborhood. The youths say the shooting was unprovoked.

Employees closed the tower during the rally and issued a communique denouncing the front.

The tower "receives millions of visitors regardless of race, color or religion, and we find it deplorable that this monument, which often symbolizes France, serves as a jumping-off point for Le Pen and his ideas," the employees' statement said.

The rally served as a kickoff for a 10-vehicle National Front motorcade that will travel around France during the campaign leading up to first-round presidential balloting on April 23.

For months, the overwhelming favorite to succeed President Francois Mitterrand was conservative Premier Edouard Balladur.

But he has tumbled in the polls following a wiretapping scandal and confusion over leaks about alleged spying by US diplomats.

Churchill's granddaughter: Winston was a sickly child

BATH (Reuters) - Winston Churchill was a sickly and lovely child who craved affection from his parents but was it only from a doting nanny, his granddaughter says.

Delving into family archives for a new look at Britain's World War II leader, Celia Sandys painted a picture at a literary conference yesterday of an impetuous romantic bruised by the rigors of harsh boarding school life.

Churchill's American mother Jennie kept all his schoolboy scrawls and these form the basis of Sandys' book on the man who was twice British prime minister, the author of 40 books and winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature.

"We feel so destitute," the 13-year-old Winston wrote from school in 1887 on hearing that his parents would be away in Russia for his school holidays.

To his father, the prominent politician Lord Randolph Churchill whom he hero-worshipped, he wrote: "Please do do do do come and see your loving son."

At death's door with pneumonia for five days, he wrote to his nanny Mrs Everest: "I am feeling very weak. I feel I could cry at everything."

Churchill confessed later: "It was to her that I poured out my troubles. For my mother seemed to me like a fairy princess and I loved her dearly - but at a distance."


United States President John F. Kennedy said of Churchill: "He mobilized the English language and sent it into battle."

But at Harrow school, Latin and math bored Churchill. His housemaster wrote in exasperation: "He is so regular in his irregularity that I don't know what to do."

Speaking at the conference in the western city of Bath, Sandys said of her grandfather: "His academic ineptitude is a great comfort to the parents of late developers."

Describing research for her book, *From Winston With Love and Kisses*, she said: "It became a passion as I delved into the family archives. It was a great emotion holding those first smudgy letters in my hand."

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The Negev as pacifier

GOVERNMENT supporters and opponents alike were startled by Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni's offer over the weekend to cede part of the Negev to the PLO in exchange for areas around Jerusalem. This is the first time in the state's history that a minister suggests trading away sovereign land within the 1949 armistice lines. And although no one expects Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to dismiss Aloni for "talking about sovereign Israeli territory as if it were produce in a Middle Eastern bazaar," as MK Ze'ev Begin (Likud) put it, members of the government have found their Aloni's remark both objectionable and damaging.

Ironically, Palestinian Authority spokesmen have also rejected the idea. Having insisted all the territories won by Israel in the 1967 war are "occupied Arab land," a concept with which Aloni agrees, they are not about to forfeit any of it. They would, of course, agree to accept some of the Negev, but not in exchange for anything else - certainly not for land near Jerusalem.

Aloni claims that she is not setting a precedent. Israel has traded sovereign land in the Arava with little internal opposition. But the Arava, where an exchange has been transacted with the Jordanians, is an area in which border demarcations have been fuzzy and undefined. Having tilted some of the land which may have been on the Jordanian side of the border, Israel has kept it and given Jordan some uncultivated land instead.

Aloni's other reason for relinquishing part of the Negev has to do with the population density in the Gaza District. She feels the inhabitants of the area need what the Germans in the 1930s called *lebensraum* - territory necessary for national fulfillment and economic self-sufficiency. There are 800,000 Arabs living in the area, and since much of it is still farmland, it cannot support a population of this size. An expansion towards Eilat, in an area which "anyway is all

desert," as she put it, would give them some breathing space.

Perhaps inadvertently, Aloni's suggestion has turned public attention to the internal contradictions of the Oslo agreement. For the Gaza District to be viable, it must be part of a larger economic entity. Ideally, it would become, as Foreign Minister Shimon Peres envisions, part of a confederation in which Israel and Jordan, and a future Palestinian entity in Judea and Samaria, as well as Gaza, would be partners.

But the Oslo agreement has not only failed to promote this process of integration. It has turned "separation" into the government's latest slogan. The less contact between the Palestinian Authority and Israel, the better the government would like it. Dreams of economic confederation, visions of a Middle Eastern common market, plans for a Benelux on the Mediterranean, would have to wait.

It is not only the threat of terrorism that has made these dreams seem remote, but the realization that economically, culturally, and politically the dictatorships of the region, and the equally undemocratic Palestinian entity, cannot and will not accept Israel as a partner for integration. If anything, the prospect of an Israel with free access to Arab states promotes fear rather than friendship in Arab capitals.

The government cannot have it both ways. It cannot dream of a Benelux and simultaneously wave the flag of separation, the antithesis of peace and cooperation. A Palestinian entity in the territories cut off from Israel has little chance of being a going concern. It can only serve as an irredentist base for terrorists.

To suppose that such an entity can be pacified by chunks of the Negev, as suggested by Aloni, or that the evacuation of 26 settlements, as suggested by Peace Now, will make the Arabs of Judea accept permanent closure and unemployment, is to betray arrogant ignorance of what animates the Middle East.

Golan and the presidents

THE fact-finding trips of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations are highly beneficial for all concerned. They give the American Jewish leadership an opportunity to acquaint itself first hand with Israel's most pressing problem. And they give Israeli leaders a chance to learn something about the current American mood from Israel's most dedicated supporters.

It is inevitable that such trips should favor the government's viewpoint. This is at it should be. The elected government of Israel officially represents its people. And while visitors traditionally also hear the opinions of the opposition, it is the government's message that must set the visit's tone.

But it is one thing to give the government's side an advantage, and quite another to mislead. Yesterday, the presidents' group did the obligatory tour of the Golan. That the visit was scheduled at all must be credited to the visitors' wishes, since the Foreign Ministry - as has been made clear by Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin - would rather eliminate such visits. But the purpose of the visit was vitiated by their inability to hear representatives of Committee of Golan Residents, an organization which represents the vast majority of the Golan population.

That the Golan could not ever be given up

used to be a national consensus. Until the Labor Party assumed power, visits to the Golan were made mostly to convince visitors of its importance for Israel's survival. It is no secret that the government is now willing to relinquish it, nor are the arguments for this relinquishment unknown. But it would have been enlightening for the visitors to hear what the local residents, represented mostly by disenchanted Labor voters, have to say about the area.

Unfortunately, the tour was arranged in such a way that the visitors did not see the Golan's main town, Katzrin. And the luncheon briefing was held at an army base, where political opinions are not supposed to be aired. The only Golan resident who spoke to the visitors was Yoav Tsur, an advocate of withdrawal who represents a tiny fraction of the Golan inhabitants. Four leaders of the Golan movement, including Yehuda Harel, who led a hunger strike which drew 250,000 Israelis to the Heights in a show of solidarity, were prevented from freely addressing the visitors.

That the government resorts to such means to deprive Golan spokesmen of a platform is as sad as it is worrisome. But perhaps it is nothing more than a compliment to Harel and his colleagues. There must be something awfully persuasive in what they have to say if the government so strains to shut them up.



'Al-Ahram' debates Israel's nuclear capability:

A benefit, not a threat

DAVID PERVIN

THE Arab demand that Israel join the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and/or denounce its presumed nuclear capability is a mistake. While many people consider Israel's nuclear capability a threat to the Arabs, in fact it enhances Arab security by increasing stability in the Middle East.

Since such a suggestion flies in the face of conventional wisdom, its logic must be clear to be convincing. The argument is based on the following postulates:

First, nuclear weapons cannot be used for offensive purposes, nor to compel action: they can only be used for deterrence. An Israeli threat to attack an Arab state would not be credible: it could not be carried out due to radioactive and political fallout. An Israeli threat to use nuclear weapons if its existence was threatened, on the other hand, would be credible.

SECOND, Israel has no intention of attacking any Arab state. The belief that Israel is expansionist cannot be sustained in the face of its return of Sinai for peace and its apparent willingness to return occupied Palestinian and Syrian territories if appropriate political and, especially, security provisions are arranged. Israel's offensive mili-

tary doctrine, based on preemption, is not a manifestation of political intentions, but is an outcome of geographic, demographic, and military concerns. The third postulate is that Israel fears that the Arabs continue to seek its destruction, and for this reason want to deprive it of

when they perceive potential gains. If these postulates are accepted, then the conclusion is that Israel's presumed nuclear capability enhances stability and thus the security of the Arabs, both immediately and in the long term.

The immediate benefit to the Arabs is that Israel's presumed nuclear capability allows it to consider returning the occupied Palestinian and Syrian territories; which creates a deterioration in Israel's military posture, but is necessary for peace.

In the long term, an Israel with neither the territories nor nuclear weapons would feel more vulnerable and thus would have to rely more on its preemptive strategy. That is, any Arab action perceived by Israel as having the potential of causing a loss or diminishment in its security would force it to engage in risky behavior.

The possibility of miscalculation, escalation, and instability would thus increase, decreasing the security of the entire Middle East.

The writer is an American Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Political Science at the University of California.

Israel's alleged nuclear capability actually enhances Arab security

its ultimate deterrent: nuclear weapons. The argument that the Arabs cannot accept limitations on either conventional weapons or chemical and biological weapons in the absence of Israeli concessions on the nuclear issue fails to account for Israel's fears and the reality that while conventional forces can be quickly rebuilt, and chemical programs easily hidden, restarting a nuclear program is difficult.

The final postulate is that, as psychologists have demonstrated, when people fear that they will sustain losses, they are willing to accept greater risks than

Fine and useless distinctions

MOHAMED SID-AHMED

BUT LET US look in more detail at Pervin's postulates.

In postulate I, he says that Israel's nuclear weapons cannot be used for offensive purposes because of the radioactive fallout, but they can be used for defensive purposes.

Surely the same restrictions apply in both cases; or would the

an overkill capability can allay Israel's fears. While Israel allows no one, not even its closest allies to question its security dispositions, Pervin expects the Arabs to leave the whole question of their own security unconditionally in the hands of the erstwhile enemy.

One has heard of maintaining a balance of terror to keep the peace. But this has always been based on mutual nuclear deterrence, never on unilateral deterrence.

In other words, Pervin is asking us to accept the notion that Israel is entitled to have its cake and eat it; that the Arabs lift their boycott of Israel and join it in a common Middle East market as a token of peace and, at the same time, [that Israel] retain absolute military superiority over its new trading partners, thanks to its nuclear dimension.

In the past, Israel bombed Baghdad to destroy an alleged Iraqi attempt to develop a nuclear capability. Israel can no longer proceed in the same manner now that peace has become the frame of reference throughout the region.

Israel's retention of its nuclear capability is bound to incite the Arabs to require a similar capability, an option that is less remote now than at any time in the past.

The writer is a weekly columnist for Al-Ahram.

These two articles were recently published in both Al-Ahram's Arabic and English editions.

POSTSCRIPTS

A WOMAN found a gold bracelet that had washed up on a beach in Wales. It looked old, and it was - more than 3,000 years old.

Marjorie Eccles spotted a glint in the shallow water while walking near her home at Mefyn. The Bronze Age bracelet, seven cm in

diameter, may be of Irish origin dating from 1500-1200 BCE, an archaeologist said.

"It is in good condition and a very interesting find. It is a plain and pleasing design which would not look out of place on anybody's wrist in the 20th century," he said.

(Baltimore Sun)

More than meets the eye

JONATHAN BOR

THE fast-growing science of cancer genetics has provided scientists with hope of identifying people who are predisposed to deadly cancers - such as those of the breast and colon - so doctors and patients can watch for the first suspicious signs.

An article published in a recent edition of the *New England Journal of Medicine* presents an additional possibility: that genetic "probes" can do a better job than microscopes of finding residual cancer cells in tissues bordering visible tumors.

The test holds the potential of reducing the frequency of recurrences after cancer operations. "The biggest problem now is

Genetic 'probes' may be able to detect the cancer cells a microscope can't

the fact that there are cells that can't be taken out because they can't be seen," said Dr. David Sidransky, a specialist in head and neck cancers who directed a study at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in Baltimore. "In many cases, if the surgeon could go back and take one more small piece, he could cure the patient."

The Hopkins study involved 69 patients who had head and neck cancers - a category that includes cancers of the lip, mouth, tongue, jaw and tonsils. In all cases, surgeons removed the visible tumor and a thin rim of tissue that appeared to be healthy.

Pathologists ordinarily inspect the extra tissue under a microscope to make sure that it doesn't contain any cancer cells.

RESIDUAL cancer cells are often signs that surgeons should remove additional tissue to prevent cancer from spreading.

In the study, doctors subjected the extra tissue to a genetic test as well.

When tissues were examined under a microscope, doctors identified 25 patients who appeared to have no cancer cells in the tissue outside their visible tumors.

But when doctors used a genetic probe to look for a defective gene known as p53, they found the mutation lurking in the cells of 13 of the patients.

To the doctors, this meant that the microscopes weren't sensitive enough to detect cancers that were brewing on the molecular level.

However, they weren't allowed to intervene because the genetic technique is considered experimental.

In the two years that followed surgery, five of the patients had recurrences. Four of them died.

"This is almost always the case in head and neck cancers," Sidransky said. "If you recur, you die. Your first shot is your best shot."

When healthy, the p53 gene puts the brakes on cancer before it accelerates out of control, spreading to nearby cells and distant tissues. A defective gene allows cancer to grow unfettered. The mutation is present in half of all cancers of the head and neck, as well as many breast cancers.

The Hopkins team will soon test the technique on 200 patients to confirm the results.

If the test proves accurate, Sidransky said, it could be ready for routine application at major medical centers in a few years.

Besides signaling the need for more surgery, genetic tests could also rule out unnecessary cutting.

This is especially important in the delicate region of the head and neck, where uncertainties about the precise extent of a patient's cancer often force the removal of an extra "margin of safety" at great cost to the patient's quality of life.

(Baltimore Sun)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

JERUSALEM'S DEVELOPMENT

Sir, - Ignorance may be the greatest fault of Chaim Beckerman's op-ed article of January 27 on Jerusalem, even more so than moral insensitivity. She apparently is unaware, for instance, that Arab mobs drove Jews out of the Old City's Christian and Moslem quarters in the 1920s and 1930s when the British were firmly in the saddle. Thus these acts of ethnic cleansing had tacit British approval. Yet she praises the British by implication in her article. Nor does she seem aware that, in Roman times, the district of Jerusalem (and later that of the *Judea* Aelia Capitolina) that the Romans built in its place) included the areas of Ma'aleh Adumim, Betar, Givat Ze'ev, etc.

It is offensive that she sees Jerusalem as "a great Islamic city." She does not have the sensitivity to see that continued exclusive Moslem possession of the Temple Mount and the exclusion of Jews from it represent a humiliation of Jews and Judaism. But this is what one expects. What is more startling in Beckerman's petulant outburst is the failure to see Jerusalem as a holy city for Christians too. She does not even mention them.

Beckerman naively (one presumes) writes that the "Western

Wall... [isn't] going anywhere even if the Palestinians get a state." However, the Arab record of protecting Jewish holy places and archaeological remains is poor. Witness what happened to the King David mosaic from Gaza and the Jewish symbols carved on a ancient column reused in the Gaza mosque (now disfigured or destroyed).

Simply offensive is Beckerman's insinuation that modern Israelis are "xenophobic." Surely this trait is much more characteristic of modern Arabs and Moslems, including many of our neighbors here, showing up in the hostility to Jews praying on the Temple Mount, for example.

Beckerman speaks of Arab fears of homelessness and displacement. Again, she seems unaware that Arabs were the first in modern Jerusalem, after the Turks, to drive out others. Worse, she opposes the Jewish return to places of Jewish habitation before the infitadah of the 1930s. Of course, after the boom in murders since Oslo, to see the "peace process" as a positive good to which it is worthwhile to sacrifice justice and the human rights of Jews in Jerusalem is bizarre at best, if not wicked.

Jerusalem.

E.A. GREEN

BARUCH GOLDSTEIN

Sir, - As a person who respects the rights of individuals, I most definitely condemn and deplore the killing of innocents. With this in mind, I must still protest our government's continued demonization of Dr. Baruch Goldstein.

At the time of his memorial service, government leaders and media professionals referred to him as "the murderer" Baruch Goldstein. Was it not this government's attitude of disregard for, and disdain of, the residents of Judea, Samaria and Gaza that triggered this tragic event? Was it not the Labor-Meretz coalition's callousness toward the so-called "sacrifices" for peace that precipitated this desperate act? And finally was it not the unending acts of terrorist outrage and calls for the annihilation of the Jewish state by the Palestinian leadership that led an otherwise loving father and self-sacrificing care-giver to commit so heinous a slaughter?

I suggest that we remember Dr. Goldstein for the man he was prior to Purim of 1994 instead of distracting the public by dehumanizing Baruch Goldstein.

Ra'anana.

MOSHE NULMAN

مكتبة الجليل

ary 28 1995 The Jerusalem Post
More than meets the eye
Jonathan Bor

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Ex-ICO conductor doesn't miss a beat

LAST year Menahem Nebenhau's name was in the headlines - for all the wrong reasons.

When the conductor was mooted as music director of the Israel Chamber Orchestra, the rank-and-file musicians revolted. They threatened to close shop if the relatively young and unknown Nebenhau were named to replace the retiring music director, Shlomo Mintz.

While none of the musicians disputed Nebenhau's talent - after all, he was the ICO's house conductor for a while - it was clear that they preferred someone with more experience and star power.

Today the ICO is still searching for a music director, while Nebenhau carries on with conducting assignments both here and abroad.

Surprisingly, perhaps, he seems to have no bad feelings from the episode, and continues to conduct the ICO.

"This whole affair had its positive and negative aspects," he says. "It was a very important part in my own development as a professional conductor. I came out of it with a lot of ambition. Although it might sound somewhat paradoxical, I did come out of it a stronger man."

The 35-year-old conductor recalls that "even during the height of the debate I had more than a few concert dates with the orchestra and we did not cancel them."

"After all, the stage is the stage and life is life," he says. "What happens on stage is very beautiful. Then there is the backstage intrigue which we must suffer. All the nonmusical aspects of a musician's life are rather distracting, but they are part of the business."

To show that he bears no grudges, Nebenhau led the ICO on Sunday in a subscription concert, and he has another family concert series coming up with the orchestra.

However, Nebenhau spends most of his time nowadays working with young musicians on the way to becoming professionals.

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

He leads the Education Division Chamber Orchestra of the IDF, works occasionally with the Young Philharmonic Orchestra, and is the music director of the Tel Aviv High School Symphony Orchestra, a position he has held for a decade and of which he is very proud.

"When I started here, the orchestra had about 40 musicians. Now we have between 80 and 100. We have created a curriculum for orchestral playing that lasts the four years that the students are in the school."

Nebenhau is gratified that, at

the end of each school year, many graduates keep up with their music-making. "A lot continue playing in the army, and many find their way to the Young Philharmonic Orchestra."

This year's festive concert takes place, as usual, at Heichal Hatarbut in Kfar Sava on March 13.

The program comprises Elia Sheriff's *Variations on an Israeli Song*, Beethoven's Fifth Symphony and the Elgar cello concerto with 17-year-old Gabi Lipkind as the first soloist. The second soloist this year is Miki Katz.

"What makes our orchestra so special is that we never sight-

read, we never run to a concert," Nebenhau says. "Rather, we spend about seven months each year studying this one program in and out."

He, too, learns from such a process.

"When I spend so much time with one particular work and get into all the minute details of the score I get a lot of perspective which one simply cannot get when you learn a new piece in a week or so," he says. "It enables me to work on orchestra techniques in a most systematic way."

He thoroughly enjoys working with these young musicians.

"It's a cliché that everyone re-

peats, but it's a true one," he says. "It's not easy being an orchestra member, and to ignite the joy of music-making in an orchestra takes a special touch. With the kids you just touch them and they explode."

After Nebenhau leads the Tel Aviv Yellin Symphony Orchestra's annual gala concert he will conduct the Kibbutz Chamber Orchestra in a program featuring Richard Strauss, Mozart, Mendelssohn and Andre Hajdu. On April 6 he leads the Tel Aviv Yellin Orchestra and choir in their final concert at the Tel Aviv Music Conservatory.

At the beginning of July he will lead the Education Division Chamber Orchestra in a special concert at the Jerusalem Music Center.

And after that ... he is open to suggestions.

New band's got fire in the Belly

NEW RELEASES

TIRZAH AGASSI

ANYTHING labeled "alternative" is likely to be pretty ornery.

The alternative band Belly is no exception to this rule. Lead singer/songwriter guitarist Tanya Donnelly may have healthy good looks. But she is not going to cash in on them with a Mariah Carey-style homecoming queen show. Perhaps that is because, unlike Mariah, she has never been hungry.

Alternative attitude may be a middle-class prerogative, but that doesn't stop its practitioners from being sincere in their disgust with commercialism. Though it took me a while to get past the listener unfriendliness of Belly's second album *King* (NMC), I eventually came around to accepting their elitism as a smart self-preservationist move. It is wise to take it slow when figuring out just how much of yourself you are willing to sell.

The group will tour with R.E.M. this summer, which is likely to propel them out into the media glare. They may even "go mega" with their next album.

But for the time being these veterans of Boston's college music scene are sheltering themselves from the prying attention of the masses by making music appreciated only by listeners who enjoy the concept of having to work to understand its beauty.

The melodies here do not reach out and grab you. Any even borderline snappy hooks allegedly wrote themselves against Donnelly's intentions.

As for a "you can dance to it" beat ... forget it. This is music for people who stay up into the wee hours and listen, mulling over lyrics

and applying them to their own lives.

Donnelly's lyrics are original: "Covered in honey/Showered in beer/Now when you spin on your head like a monkey/I won't see you/Sing a bad love song loud in my ear/So when you spin on your head like a monkey/I won't hear you/I tame a bird to light where you live/Light on your arm and bring a wild gift."

If that speaks to you as an opening love song, it's worth looking into the album.

Donnelly's vocals, though sometimes screechily strained, are for the most part tender, sincere and even pretty. Their rather minimalist wrapping is occasionally beautiful, but always in an understated way with enough banging and clashing to remind one of real life.

"As soon as you're in love," says Donnelly, "you're in incredible danger. You're floating on top of this ocean with things underneath that can kill you, how wonderful and terrifying that is! In the middle of this fear, you have these lights, and this wonderful naked person you can go home to."

Exposing all this does not come easily to Donnelly. In fact, in the past, as a member of the alternative bands Throwing Muses and the Breeders, she regularly threw up in a nervous fit before performances.

Every generation seems to have its spokespersons who take that route to stripping away inhibition. And every generation seems to have its members who struggle one way or another with the paradox of wanting the power of being heard, yet loathing the



Alternative band Belly may not hit the charts, but it has a lot to teach us about self-respect.

self-prostitution of making nice to the media.

The basic issues that this group is dealing with are as old as the hills, yet their manner of tuning into them communicates much

about what it is like to be young and intelligent today. They are neither as desperate as Nirvana or as powerful as Pearl Jam, the bands that pushed alternative rock into the mainstream. But

they are led by a woman. Perhaps they will become a band one hears about, perhaps not. Nonetheless their experiment with self-discovery has plenty to teach about self-respect.

Zehavi broadens spectrum of colors in 'Pink Dust'

CONDUCTOR Menahem Nebenhau, leading the Israel Chamber Orchestra, offered an interesting and unconventional program: three 20th-century works and Mozart's "Prague" Symphony, No. 38.

The concert opened with a new and fascinating version of Oded Zehavi's *Pink Dust*, which had its premiere in 1993.

Zehavi found an impressive way to combine abstract sound patterns and catchy melody. Nebenhau established a close relationship with the piece in an inspired and meticulously exact reading.

The next piece on the program was Bohuslav Martinu's *Rhapsody-Concerto* for viola and orchestra with Gad Lewertoff as soloist. Martinu detached Czech folklorism from the romanticism of Dvorak and Smetana and synthesized it with western, 20th-century musical language, an enormous achievement. The concerto, mainly a long, stretched-out viola cantilena, proved an ideal vehicle for Lewertoff. Every phrase showed his kinship with the music.

Lewertoff enjoyed playing the

work and Nebenhau also seemed in his element, making the orchestra sound excellent.

The ending symphony and its performance showed again that Mozart is really the hardest nut to crack. The violins were often off-pitch, and there were many other annoying inaccuracies. Nothing Nebenhau tried and achieved provided the necessary meaning.

Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center, February 19.

Benjamin Bar-Am

BEATLES hits are no doubt welcome, and so is Brahms's Second Piano Concerto.

But the first, when following on the heels of the latter, did little more than effectively obliterate any impression the concerto might have created, in the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra's Subscription Concert No. 4, conducted by David Shallon. The JSO has not yet mastered the subtle art of programming.

Cecile Ousset from France tossed off Brahms's Piano Concerto No. 2 with tremendous energy. In place of the German ponderousness with which the work is often performed was a

CONCERT ROUNDUP

tempestuous, gripping experience of enormous drive and force. No less striking in this context, was her delicately soft, caressing touch in the slow movement, and the sparkling, winged, lightness of the final one.

And then, as if to wipe out all these memorable impressions, the orchestra went Hungarian. Brahms, as a stepping stone with his Hungarian Dances, was followed by consistent choices, Johann Strauss and Berlioz in their Hungarian moments - *Gipsy Baron* and *Rakoczy March*.

Then the sense of orientation got confused with Offenbach, Lloyd Webber's *Phantom of the Opera* and the Beatles medley. Strauss danced in rather heavy boots, and the sound of the Beatles was blaring in the brass when not sickly sentimental in the strings. They functioned as effective applause-squeezers, though, as anticipated.

Jerusalem Theater, February 21.

Ury Eppstein

THE Hillel-Hebrew University

Orchestra, leading a rather concealed existence throughout the year, living mainly in its rehearsals, revealed itself in its annual concert, dedicated to the late former university president Avraham Harman. Its founder-conductor, the indefatigable Anita Kamien, never content with less than the most demanding works of the repertoire, opted this time for a Beethoven program - *Coriolan*, the Third Piano Concerto, and the Seventh Symphony.

The enthusiasm of this students' and immigrants' orchestra was matched only by the devotion of its conductor, which is a particularly captivating and audible asset of this pleasant group. The sheer joy of music-making more than makes up for lacking in professional polish. The conductor, therefore, wisely concentrates on essentials, rather than bothering the players with too many niceties of interpretation. Thus an uncommonly good-natured, bright, worried and unperturbed Beethoven emerged - a not so often encountered aspect of his multifaceted personality.

The artistic achievement of Alan Sternfeld's playing, in the Piano Concerto No. 3, could not have been on a higher level, even with the most professional of orchestras.

Jerusalem Theater, February 19.

Ury Eppstein

THE Belgian Ponticello String Quartet (Francoise Gillique, Michael Bouvet, Dominique Eyckmans, Eric Chardon) seems to have invested most of its rehearsal time in Shostakovich's Quartet No. 8. This work sounded more animated and relaxed than the rest of the program, though not particularly intense.

The Quartet's playing is cautious, well-behaved, accurate and technically *comme il faut*. In Borodin's Quartet No. 2, the Scherzo was not more humorous than the other movements, and the Notturno not more dreamy. Piazzolla's *Four for Tango* was taken too seriously, and was not electrifying as intended.

These four young musicians are in need of a dose of temperament and of letting themselves go to make their playing command more attention.

Bible Lands Museum, February 25.

Ury Eppstein

Local audiences can catch him tomorrow at the Israel Music Conservatory in Tel Aviv, in Telemann's cantata *Il maestro di musica* with the Keshet Baroque Orchestra. The program will be repeated Thursday at St. Andrew's Scottish Church in Jerusalem and next Sunday at the Leo Baeck Center in Haifa.

Michael Ajzenstadt

Two in a cell cast spell

THEATER REVIEW

NAOMI DOUDAI

LAMA! (Why?)

Written by Daniel Juno. Directed by Arieh Eldar. Design by Dafna Kook. Lighting by Dorit Maish. Choreography by Miri Mendel. Music by Dani Reichental. The Hebrew Play Week at Hasimta Cafe-theater, Old Jaffa. Cast: Ahram Tallawi, Niv Cohen, Amir Lavi, Vered Kat.

HASIMTA'S Hebrew Theater Week differs from other fringe festivals in two respects. It offers a platform to works of minimal proportions demanding the intimate space and audience conditions afforded by its two tiny theaters. And it gives support to the first efforts of unrecognized playwrights.

If many of the latter deserve to remain unrecognized, there are always a precious few who show surprising talent and give a glimmer of hope that here at last are the rising playwrights who in time might give us The Great Hebrew Play.

Lama! is one of these.

Its inclusion in the ninth year of the festival does the venture credit. The whole action takes place in a solitary confinement cell in an institution where two inmates, one an Arab, one a Jew, are incarcerated and subjected to mental and physical torture. The drama of the emotional relationship that develops between the two epitomizes the triumph of personal freedom over the depredations of environmental tyranny in all its violence and unrelenting horror.

But more generally, there emanates from this play a poetic statement about the destructive

impulses, illusions, fantasies, aspirations and frustrations that beset the human condition. Basically it is man's universal and eternal conundrum projected by two persons in a cage.

The fatalistic message that emerges is "What for? Why?" One answer is that for immensity of theme, simplicity of projection and reduction of dialogue, forceful direction and powerful acting, there has been little on our stage for years to match it.

The demented Moslem is played by Ahram Tallawi with an incrementing though forever constrained pathos that is almost Christ-like. Playing against him with deep sensitivity is Niv Cohen as the self-tortured second occupant of the cell. Together they offer a delicately balanced, deeply dramatic instance of fine ensemble playing.

Except for the episodes of violence (chilling, cruel, but never overdone as played out by the interrogating doctor, played by Vered Kat), nothing much ever happens that is not spiritual or psychic.

Yet for all that, there is never a boring moment. Perhaps the Sad Clown (Amir Lavi), the helpless witness to the implacable force of events, a surreal symbol of potential power that in practice only distracts, should have been dispensed with. For the rest, what we have here is a gripping production with a significantly contemporary thrust that bodes well for the future of our local drama.

A bowperson's delight

THOSE busy bowpeople at Keshet Eilon are getting ready for this year's summer master classes at Kibbutz Eilon in Western Galilee. For the first time this year, as well as violin master classes, there'll be a viola series conducted by violist Yuri Gendelsman and Dutch master Vladimir Mendelssohn.

Superstar violinist Shlomo Mintz, enthused by his classes last year, returns for a second time, joining a lineup that includes Gil Shaham, Finland's Maarit Rajamaki (her third year), and Yitzhak Rashkovsky, who teaches at London's Royal College of Music and always brings a group of his own students.

Keshet Eilon coordinator Gilad Sheba says that "this year we're receiving more applications than ever from abroad, including first-time queries from Spain, Austria, Australia and India."

The three-week summer school can accommodate only 40-50 students, and this year eight places are reserved for violists. Keshet Eilon is taking applications for violists to May 15. Information is available at 04-9858191/349.

As usual there'll be the odd marriage of violin master classes combined with archery lessons, which the young violinists take to like ducks to water because both sets of bowpersons use the same muscles.

Helen Kaye

TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEKS ON CHARTS	ARTIST	TITLE
#1	1	FILM SOUND TRACK	PULP FICTION
#2	4	AVTIPUS	THE WEATHERMAN KNOWS
#3	3	SHALOM HANOCH	VI-O-LENCE
#4	10	RITA	THE GRAND LOVE
#5	2	CRANBERRIES	UNPLEASANT
#6	14	NIRVANA	UNPLEASANT IN NEW YORK
#7	5	BOAZ SHARABI	YOU ARE THE NIGHT TO ME
#8	9	MONICA SEX	WOUNDS AND KISSES
#9	12	MASHINA	SO LONG, KIDS
#10	10	SADE	BEST OF
#11	24	STING	FIELDS OF GOLD
#12	RE	FILM SOUND TRACK	THE LION KING
#13	1	VARIOUS ARTISTS	TRANCE SIDE OF ... 2
#14	18	DANA INTERNATL	UMPATAMPA
#15	8	ERAN TSUR	BLIND SEAL

Tower Records' top-selling albums for the previous week. RE - re-entry

PETS' CORNER

Full of practical advice on choosing, caring for, feeding, grooming and the health of your four-legged friend, these large format books are useful for new and experienced pet-owners alike. Includes essential information on training and behavior problems, with step-by-step illustrations. By Jane Oliver, who has written widely on all aspects of pet care.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1995

Barings collapse sends global shockwaves

Shaky markets, sterling recoup some losses

LONDON (Reuters) - European markets, battered and bruised by the weekend collapse of British investment bank Barings, picked themselves up to recover some losses in late trading yesterday as Wall Street shrugged off the crisis.

Stocks in Europe clawed their way back after traders, unsettled by the worst banking crisis in 11 years, were caught up in a global selling frenzy that earlier drove the Tokyo exchange to a 15-month low.

Sterling crashed to a record low in the flight out of weaker currencies toward the perceived safety of the mark, but later strengthened.

The lira slumped to new lows, beaten down by the markets turmoil and Rome politics.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones Index closed 23.17 points lower at 5,988.57, based on early and unofficial data.

The cause of the global turmoil was losses of more than \$1 billion run up by a single trader at the Singapore branch of Barings, bankers to royalty.

The Bank of England tried and failed to organize a rescue for the bank.

As investors took fright, the German mark and the Swiss franc were seen as safe havens for cash and both rallied strongly.

The British pound and the Italian lira, already weakened by domestic political uncertainties, suffered.

The pound sank to a fresh record low of 2.2950 marks in early European trading after dropping to a previous record low of 2.2993 marks in Asia. It later rallied to 2.31 marks.

The lira hit a low of 1,167 to the mark in morning business and the Bank of Italy bought lira for marks.

The London stock market lost more than one percent at the opening with the Financial Times/Stock Exchange index of 100 leading shares down 36.1 points following the 3.80% dive in Tokyo stock prices.

The fall came despite efforts by the governor of the Bank of England to calm the world's financial markets by stressing that the crisis was limited to Barings and that other banks and financial institutions were not affected.

The FTSE finished the day just 0.41% lower, falling 12.4 points to 3,025.3.



A futures trader in Australia working for a firm which is 20 percent owned by Barings takes a break from a hectic trading session in Sydney yesterday. (Reuters)

Britain launches probe

LONDON (Reuters) - Britain yesterday launched an urgent investigation after a rogue trader brought down Barings, the country's oldest investment bank, by making a mind-boggling \$27 billion bet that went horribly wrong.

As Malaysian police hunted for 28-year-old Nick Leeson, a manager at Barings office in neighboring Singapore, Finance Minister Kenneth Clarke sought to reassure financial markets that the sudden collapse of a pillar of Britain's banking establishment would not do lasting damage.

Barings went to the wall on Sunday after the Bank of England failed in desperate attempts to find a rescuer to bail it out of losses of \$900 million - more than the bank was worth - racked up

through speculation in Japanese shares and bonds.

"This failure is of course a blow to the City of London," Clarke told parliament. "But it appears to be a specific incident unique to Barings centered on one rogue trader in Singapore."

Clarke said he was determined to get to the bottom of how such huge unauthorized deals could have escaped detection and ordered a thorough review of Britain's bank regulatory system.

London's financial markets seemed to share his view that the fall-out from the collapse of Barings, which employs 4,000 people worldwide, would be limited.

After dropping sharply at the opening, leading London shares rallied to end just 0.41 percent

lower - a far cry from the 3.80% loss suffered earlier by the Tokyo market, which pushed Barings' losses to more than \$1 billion.

The pound, too, closed above record lows touched early in the day as traders struggled to absorb how a 233-year-old bank could be brought to its knees almost overnight by a lone trader.

Bank of England Governor Eddie George said the central bank approached Japan's banking authorities over the weekend for help and came close to finding a way to keep Barings afloat.

But potential rescuers were put off because no one could put a final figure on the scale of the bank's losses, which will know only when the futures contracts are unwound next month.

Complex trades caused crash

LONDON (Reuters) - The world now knows a lone maverick trader forced Britain's oldest merchant bank into financial ruin. But how did he do it?

Barings sustained losses of over \$1 billion as trader Nick Leeson bet on the fortunes of Japan's stock market... and lost. But even experts are divided over how just one rogue dealer could trigger a leading bank's collapse.

The most popular theory runs that last December Leeson used financial instruments known as options to gamble on rises and falls in Japan's best-known stock index, the Nikkei 225.

In a series of complex trades, which involved selling options, Leeson left Barings vulnerable to the vagaries of the Japanese market.

The trader executed the deals at what is known as a "strike price," close to the stock market level

at the time. He was betting on how volatile the stock market would be in coming months.

But the wager was very risky, and London dealers calculated that this trade alone cost Barings 20 million yen (\$2 million) for every point the Nikkei 225 index fell below 18,500.

Unfortunately for the trader, the Nikkei 225 slipped below that level in January. So Leeson frantically tried to push the Nikkei back up above 18,500 by buying forward contracts, or futures, on both the Osaka Securities Exchange and the Singapore exchange, SIMEX.

But this second gamble was also doomed. The Nikkei kept falling and Leeson was hit simultaneously with a loss-making options position, and margin calls from the two exchanges for futures positions, now in the red.

Public borrowing of unlinked shekels up 2.2%

PUBLIC borrowing of unlinked shekels rose 2.2 percent last month, more than making up for December's drop.

The Bank of Israel announced yesterday that unlinked shekel loans rose to NIS 55.3 billion from NIS 54.1b. in December.

According to the central bank, the fact that unlinked credit grew while the expansion of the money supply was restrained by high interest rates reflects the success

JOSE ROSENFELD

the bank has had in curbing inflation without stifling economic growth.

Average interest rates on credit to the public inched up to 22.75% from 22.48% in December, as the Bank of Israel left interest rates unchanged.

Similarly, the interest commercial banks charge on overdrafts increased slightly to 25.3% from

25.25%. Fixed-term interest rates on credit rose to 20.68% from 20.31%.

Interest on deposits went up to 14.66% from 14.46%. Short-term deposits rose to 16.79% from 16.64%.

The banks' profit margin from transactions with the public went up slightly to 8.09% from 8.02%. Their financial margin for all transactions rose more significantly to 6.31% from 5.55%.

Net profits drop at Union Bank of Israel

Bank of Jerusalem boosts earnings

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

UNION Bank of Israel completed the fourth quarter with a drop in net profits to NIS 2.31 million from NIS 11.78m. during the same period in 1993.

For the year, net profits fell to NIS 18.38m. from NIS 36.4m. Annualized net return on equity was 3.9 percent.

Profit from financing activities before provision for doubtful debts fell to NIS 212.3m. from NIS 221.7m.

Management blamed the drop on the continuing erosion of financial margins in the unlinked sector, as well as expansion of the bank's activities.

Provisions for doubtful debts fell to NIS 19.1m. last year from NIS 20.3m. In addition, management made a special provision of NIS 12m. on account of \$24m. in legal claims made against the bank and its subsidiary.

A decrease in revenues and a rise in expenditures also helped reduce the bank's profits.

For the year, the bank's revenues from ordinary and other activities fell to NIS 106.9m. from NIS 122.9m. Management said the decrease reflected lower income from security activities, mainly due to the crisis on the capital market and a drop in real income from foreign currency transactions.

Operating and other expenses increased to NIS 249.9m. from

NIS 248.4m., mainly reflecting a 2.7% rise in salaries and related expenses.

At the end of the year, total assets increased 1.4% to NIS 7.69 billion. Credit to the public grew 5.9% last year to NIS 4.86b.

Bank of Jerusalem for Development & Mortgage completed the fourth quarter with a rise in net profit to NIS 2.34m. from NIS 1.69m. in the same quarter in 1993.

The bank reported a 12% growth in net profits to NIS 6.05m. from NIS 5.4m. The improvement reflects a decrease in provisions for doubtful debts to NIS 1.54m. and a 14% rise in operating and other income to NIS 20.4m.

Operating and other expenses fell 13% to NIS 40.1m. from NIS 35.5m. in the previous year.

Bank Leumi Industrial Development Bank, a subsidiary of Bank Leumi, completed the year with a decrease in net profits to NIS 5.6m. from NIS 17.1m. in the previous year.

The bank registered income from irregular activities of NIS 1.9m., compared with NIS 16.2m. in 1993.

Mitvach Shamir insurance agency completed the year with an increase in net profits to NIS 6.19m. from NIS 1.73m. in 1993.

Mortgage banks increase rates

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

ALL but one of the five large mortgage banks have decided to raise mortgage rates.

Bank Hapoalim's Mishkan Bank and Mizrahi's Tefahot Israel Mortgage Bank have decided to follow Bank Leumi Mortgage Bank's lead and raise rates on mortgages by 0.5% to 5.8%.

Discount will increase rates by 0.3%, while First International Bank is expected to follow in the next few days.

Bank Leumi Mortgage Bank raised rates last week following the high yields on the bond market, which determine the cost of money for mortgage lenders.

The other banks waited a few days to see if the Bank of Israel's lowering of interest will influence the bond market.

The mortgage banks raised mortgage rates, despite increase in bonds on the stock market the last few days.

Trade gap doubles in last 3 months

JOSE ROSENFELD

IMPORTS soared in the past three months, as exports fell, more than doubling the average monthly trade gap, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday.

Imports jumped 56.4 percent from November through January, as industrial machinery and equipment imports rose a sharp 72.6% and industrial input imports increased 53.3%.

Similarly, consumer imports expanded by 24.3%.

Durable imports - including cars, furniture, refrigerators, and laundry machines - shot up 68% after falling 44% in September and October.

By contrast, exports, excluding diamonds, fell a steep 58.1% in November through January, after jumping 123% in the previous two months.

Industrial exports, which make up about one-third of industrial production, tumbled 36% following sharp drops in September and October.

The trade gap - excluding diamonds, fuel, ships and aircraft - averaged \$660 million a month, compared with \$320m. a month in the previous two months.

Industrial production rose 7.1% in November and December. Production fell in heavy industry, including the sectors that produce construction inputs, metal, machinery, electric equipment, and transportation vehicles.

By contrast, production rose in the food industry and the light industries - such as the textile, clothing, leather, paper, print industries, plastic and chemicals.

Cement sales, a good indicator of construction activity, dove 59% during November and December, after steep rises earlier last year.

Retail trade jumped 7.2% in November through January, following a 21% drop in the previous two months. Food sales grew 10%, after falling 14% in the previous two months.

The number of new jobs, including workers from the territories, increased 2% in November and December, after growing at a similar rate in the preceding two months.

Wages, excluding workers from the territories, were flat

compared with the same period in 1993. Most of the rise was concentrated in the public and community service sector, where wages jumped 15% due to the government's generous wage agreement.

Wages in other sectors, however, shrank 5%.

The work hours of employees from Israel and the territories grew at an annual rate of 6% in the last quarter of 1994, following a 17% rise in the third quarter.

The increase reflected rises of 5% in the business sector and 9% in the public and community service sector.

Tourism, as measured by the number of tourist arrivals by air, rose 11.4%, after jumping 86% in September and October. Tourist hotel stays fell 11.5% in November and December.

Seasonally adjusted consumer price increases moderated at a 10% annual rate the past three months, after rising at a 16% rate in September and October.

Elco Industries posts 11% rise in net profits

COMPANY RESULTS

RACHEL NEIMAN

ELCO Industries posted an 11 percent rise in consolidated annual net profits to NIS 39.76 million from NIS 35.7m. in 1993.

Revenues rose to NIS 395.8m. from NIS 385.46m., while price per share went up to NIS 5.39 from NIS 4.99.

Elco said the industrial sector represented 82% of sales, with the remainder taken up by trade activity.

Elco, which is the parent company of the Electra group, suffered a NIS 5.4m. loss on its company investment portfolio, compared with a gain of

NIS 5.2m. in 1993. Agan Chemical Manufacturers announced a 49 percent upswing in annual consolidated net profits to NIS 52.9m. from NIS 35.5m.

Revenues rose to NIS 512m. from NIS 454.27m., while price per share went up to NIS 3.52 from NIS 2.36.

Fourth quarter net profits jumped to NIS 10.8m. from NIS 3.5m.

Revenues for the quarter rose to NIS 143.3m. from NIS 123.7m., while price per share rose to NIS 0.71 from NIS 0.23.

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Patrah (foreign currency deposit rates) (28.2.95)				
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	5.975	5.500	5.000	
U.S. dollar (\$100,000)	5.975	5.500	5.000	
German mark (DM 200,000)	3.825	3.750	4.500	
Swiss franc (CHF 200,000)	2.925	2.875	3.500	
Yen (¥10 million yen)	0.750	0.625	0.875	

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (27.2.95)				
CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep.
Currency basket	Buy	Buy	Sell	Rate*
U.S. dollar	3.1720	3.1490	2.91	3.3957
German mark	2.9933	3.0050	2.91	3.3957
French franc	2.0689	2.0589	1.99	2.0980
Japanese yen (¥100)	4.6888	4.7548	4.59	2.0498
Dutch florin	0.5763	0.5845	0.56	0.5758
Swiss franc	3.6597	3.1057	3.00	0.5758
Italian lire	1.8144	1.8399	1.78	3.0830
Spanish peseta	0.4085	0.4123	0.40	1.8226
Swedish krona	2.3875	2.4312	2.35	2.4124
Portuguese escudo	0.4588	0.4650	0.45	0.4036
Belgian franc (F100)	0.5118	0.5180	0.47	0.4919
Finland mark	0.6543	0.6635	0.50	0.5147
Canadian dollar	2.1208	2.1507	2.08	0.6596
Australian dollar	2.1858	2.2287	2.18	2.1387
S. African rand	1.8832	1.9097	1.88	2.2119
British pound (£100)	0.7879	0.7882	0.74	0.8271
Australian dollar (A\$100)	2.2922	2.3322	2.24	2.1857
Italian lire (L1000)	1.7776	1.8036	1.74	2.5075
Japanese yen (¥100)	—	—	4.16	1.7942
Swiss franc (CHF 100)	—	—	0.84	4.1929
Spanish peseta (P100)	3.7755	3.3287	0.84	0.9549
Irish punt	4.6986	4.7859	4.59	3.8008
Portuguese escudo (Esc 100)	2.3025	2.3348	2.24	4.7363
			2.24	2.5181

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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Galil whips Rishon to tie for 2nd place

RICHARD ZAACKS

A PAIR of Steves neutralized Rishon LeZion's top gun to lift Hapoel Galil Elyon to a 94-76 away win last night. The victory leaves the two teams tied for second place in the National Basketball League.

For Galil to win, James Gully had to be shut down, and Steve Ponovka and Steve Malovic were up to the task. The duo kept the game's high scorer at bay for the first five minutes as the visitors ran up an eight-point margin (15-7) that they never relinquished.

On offense, Galil had four shooters in double figures, led by Darren Daye's 22. Daye found himself in good field position due to accurate passes from playmaker Brad Leaf who finished with six assists to go with 15 points and eight rebounds.

By the time Gully got hot (with 17 first-half points), the game was virtually out of reach. Galil took a 46-39 halftime lead.

The second half was more of the same with Galil slowly increasing its lead to double digits.

With nine minutes left, Galil had put the game on ice with a 72-54 advantage.

In addition to Daye's deft touch (including 10-for-10 from the free throw line), Galil got good performances from Oded Katash (18) and Erez Hazan (17). Gully was the game's top scorer with 25. Gerald Paddio notched 15 for Rishon.

With only two points separating second from sixth place, Rishon's loss could prove costly in the long run, especially since it faces league leaders Maccabi Tel Aviv at Yad Eliyahu next week. Galil hosts Hapoel Tel Aviv.

National Basketball League

	W	L	Pct.
1. Maccabi Tel Aviv	20	2	.42
2. Hapoel Galil Elyon	19	3	.39
3. Hapoel Rishon	15	7	.37
4. Hapoel Tel Aviv	15	7	.37
5. Bnei Herzliya	14	8	.36
6. Hapoel Holon	12	10	.34
7. Hapoel Eilat	12	10	.34
8. Hapoel Jerusalem	12	10	.34
9. Maccabi Jerusalem	11	11	.33
10. Maccabi Ramat Gan	9	13	.31
11. Hapoel Givat	8	14	.30
12. Hapoel Haifa	8	14	.30
13. Hapoel Giv'atayim	4	18	.26
14. Bnei Ramat Gan	0	22	.22

Penny fills Shaq's shoes

ORLANDO (Reuters) - With Shaquille O'Neal suspended for the game, Anfernee (Penny) Hardaway, the Orlando Magic's other young superstar, knew he had to take over. He did, in spectacular fashion.

Hardaway's breakaway slam dunk with seven-tenths of a second remaining capped a 7-0 Magic game-closing run, gave him a career-high 39 points and rallied Orlando to a 105-103 victory over the Chicago Bulls.

"I knew that my team needed my scoring with Shaquille out," said Hardaway, who shot 17-for-25. "I stepped up as a leader."

Chicago's Toni Kukoc was driving the lane and lost control of the ball when Hardaway grabbed it and streaked the length of the court for the game-winning dunk.

O'Neal was suspended one game for punching Boston's Eric Montross on Friday.

Kukoc scored 22 points and Scottie Pippen added 21.

Knicks 104, 76ers 99. Patrick Ewing had 32 points, 18 rebounds and four blocks as host New York notched its fifth win in six games.

The Knicks remained six games behind Orlando in the Atlantic Division.

Clarence Weatherspoon returned from a five-game absence with a sprained ankle to lead Philadelphia with 26 points.

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

EASTERN CONFERENCE						
Atlantic Division						
NY Rangers	W	L	T	Pts	Gf	Ga
Tampa Bay	9	8	2	20	51	47
NY Islanders	8	9	2	18	52	52
New Jersey	7	8	3	17	48	54
Philadelphia	6	7	4	16	38	39
Florida	7	8	2	16	50	50
Washington	7	11	1	15	48	58
	3	9	5	11	35	47

WESTERN CONFERENCE						
Central Division						
Pittsburgh	W	L	T	Pts	Gf	Ga
Quebec	13	3	2	28	74	53
Boston	13	3	2	28	67	41
Montreal	9	6	2	20	48	42
Buffalo	7	6	4	18	44	48
Hartford	7	7	3	17	38	38
Ottawa	6	9	3	15	43	45
	2	10	3	7	33	51

SUNDAY'S RESULTS: Tampa Bay 1, Washington 1; Calgary 5, Anaheim 3; Vancouver 5, San Jose 1; NY Rangers 4, Buffalo 2; Chicago 2, Dallas 1.

3 local rackets make 2nd round in Eilat satellite

HEATHER CHAIT

ISRAELI tennis players set off to a promising start in the first round of the Club Hotel Eilat satellite in Ashkelon yesterday with three local rackets reaching the second round.

Fourth seed Eyal Erlich (304) wasted little time against Radovan Svetlik from the Czech Republic, winning 6-2, 6-2.

In an all-Israeli game, Yoni Erlich dismissed Lior Mor, also in straight sets, 6-4, 6-3.

Oren Motevassel completed the successful Israeli trio by beating the Netherlands' Marcel Reuter 6-4, 6-2.

Nir Welgreen went down to second seeded Jozsef Krocso from Hungary, losing 6-3, 6-2.

Today, top seed Gilad Bloom (202 in the world rankings) tackles little-known qualifier Rob Wendell from the US in their first round clash.

Players from 12 countries are competing in the four-week \$25,000 satellite which moves from Ashkelon to Haifa, Jaffa and Ramat Hasharon.

Play begins today at 10.30 am at the Israel Tennis Center in Ashkelon.

Fears of British thuggery follow Chelsea to Bruges

LONDON (Reuters) - The quiet Belgian city of Bruges is bracing itself for possible fan violence after more than 50 English hooligans were deported from Belgium for disorderly behavior yesterday ahead of the Cup Winners' Cup quarter-final first leg between Club Brugge and Chelsea tonight.

Crowd violence at Chelsea at the end of an English FA Cup tie was just one incident that has scarred soccer in Britain in recent weeks.

In the European Cup, troubled holders AC Milan could be fighting for their European lives against Benfica.

Elimination over two legs by the Portuguese champions could leave Milan with nothing more than domestic soccer next season. Currently fifth in serie A, they could be squeezed out of a UEFA Cup place.

Barcelona, champions in 1992 but struggling since their crushing 4-0 defeat to Milan in last year's final in Athens, face Paris St Germain, the only side to emerge from the Champions' League with the maximum points.

Ajax Amsterdam, winners three years in a row from 1971 with Johann majestic in midfield, have, on paper, the easiest passage to the semifinals against surprise qualifiers Hajduk Split.

Cup Winners' Cup holders Arsenal, the only other English side still in Europe, is at home to Auxerre of France on Thursday with their fortunes suddenly looking up after a spate of problems on and off the field.

Arsenal won its second successive match on Saturday since manager George Graham was sacked over transfer irregularities with star forward Paul Merson, undergoing drugs rehabilitation, again finding the net.

In UEFA Cup action, Italian league leader Juventus is away to Eintracht Frankfurt and Lazio visits Bundesliga pacesetters Borussia Dortmund tonight in direct clashes between the two countries.

Bayer Leverkusen is at home to French league leaders Nantes tonight, and Parma hosts Odense of Denmark on Thursday.

The Sports Pages are edited by Joe Hoffman

Spring training's hot topic: Who's on first?

NEW YORK (AP) - The Milwaukee Brewers became the latest team to offer its minor leaguers an incentive for playing in spring training games - more meal money - while the Chicago White Sox sent home a pitcher who refused to participate in exhibitions.

The issue of who's going to play and who's not remained the hot topic at spring training Sunday.

The California Angels, who face Arizona State University in baseball's first game of the spring, got written commitments Sunday from 45 of their 50 players that they would play. One player, whose identity was not known, refused and four others had not yet returned their paperwork.

The San Francisco Giants polled their players, forcing some to declare for the first time whether they will meet the union's call to boycott or satisfy management by playing. Kansas City told its minor leaguers they would be considered striking players if they refused to play and would be sent home. Pittsburgh general manager Cam Bonifay said the team's minor leaguers had to give him their decisions by yesterday.

"It's a bad situation to put us in, a terrible situation," said pitcher Archie Corbin.

Five of Baltimore's 12 spring training opponents, meanwhile, have informed the team they could cancel exhibition games if the Orioles don't agree to use replacement players.

The opponents gave the Orioles a deadline of yesterday to decide if they would use replacement players or minor leaguers with replacement clauses in their contracts.

Orioles owner Peter Angelos said Sunday his club isn't budging from its decision

not to use replacement players. Milwaukee general manager Sal Bando promised minor leaguers who played in exhibition games that they would get about \$100-a-day meal money instead of the \$111 a day they get in the minor leagues.

"That is a cost we're willing to pay because they've been put in the middle," Bando said. "Historically, we wouldn't do that. But we will give them a little extra because they're doing a little extra for us."

The Los Angeles Dodgers have said minor leaguers who take part in exhibition games will have a job in the system for the whole season.

McClellan's prognosis improving

LONDON (AP) - As Gerald McClellan's chances of survival continued to improve yesterday, British boxing officials dismissed appeals for the sport to be banned and called for a world body to supervise safety in boxing.

McClellan remained in critical but stable condition on a life support machine at Royal London Hospital, where he had a large blood clot removed from his brain after being stopped by Nigel Benn in a punishing WBC super-middleweight title fight Saturday night.

John Sutcliffe, the neurosurgeon who performed the operation early Sunday, said "his chance of survival improves with every hour that passes."

The surgeon said it was too early to determine whether McClellan would suffer long-term brain damage or disabilities but that his boxing career was definitely over.

Members of McClellan's family - mother Stacey McClellan, girlfriend Angela Brown, aunt Linda Shorter and sister Stacey Cai - visited the boxer's bedside yesterday after flying in from the US.

McClellan, of Freeport, Illinois, collapsed in his corner after being counted out in the 10th round of what was widely described by the British media as the most brutal fight ever seen in the country.

The tragedy triggered fresh demands for boxing to be banned, a campaign that has been led for many years now by the British

Medical Association. But the British boxing community called a news conference yesterday to defend the sport and its safety procedures.

"You'll never silence the critics," said John Morris, general secretary of the British Boxing Board of Control. "I think the sport has to go on the front foot ... I just want boxing to be treated as another risk sport."

Fight promoter Frank Warren concurred. "The bottom line is boxing is a dangerous sport. You're not going to get away from that. The fighters are aware of the dangers of boxing."

Added promoter Don King, "If you followed those people who say if one bad thing happens in a sport you ban it, then we wouldn't have any sport at all."

Morris and Warren said the sport had improved its medical safeguards, noting that an anesthetist, four doctors, two sets of paramedics and two ambulances were on site for Saturday's fight at the London Arena. The treatment McClellan received was credited with saving his life.

"What happened Saturday night and the measures we had at ringside is probably the best you could get other than having an operating theater at ringside," Warren said.

As experts debated what measures could be adopted to make boxing safer - including shortening the length of bouts - attention focused on whether fighters are weakened by dehydration when they struggle to make the weight.



Gerald McClellan grimaces in pain moments before collapsing following his defeat to Nigel Benn on Saturday. (AP)

Pavin retains Nissan title

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Corey Pavin won the Nissan Open for the second straight year Sunday, joining a couple of golf's greatest players with his victory at storied Riviera Country Club.

With a 4-under-par 67, Pavin finished 16-under and three shots in front of Kenny Perry and Jay Don Blake at Riviera, where the Los Angeles tournament was first played 66 years ago and which is the site of the US PGA Championship in August.

Pavin became the first player to win the tournament two years running since Arnold Palmer did so in 1966 and 1967 at Rancho Park. And nobody had won the tournament two consecutive years at Riviera since the legendary Ben Hogan turned the trick in 1947 and 1948.

Fred Couples, the tournament champion in 1990 and 1992 and runner-up the past two years, shot a 72 to finish 10 shots behind Pavin this time. Peter Jacobsen, who won at San Diego and Pebble Beach also had a 72 at Riviera Sunday to finish 3-under.

Alexsev ranked in top 10

ISRAELI swimmer Vadim Alexsev is ranked seventh in the world in the 100-meter breaststroke with a time of 60.57 seconds.

Also, Yossi Ohrbach holds the 19th spot in the 100m backstroke at 58.70. (Ithm)

Sports Channel State Cup broadcast a net success

SPORTSWATCH

ARYEH DEAN COHEN

In this game. It didn't help much with that foul shot," said Weitz. Then when Thompson hit the second one, Weitz added: "He heard him on the second one." It was God-awful exploitation of Thompson's piety for a quick grin, and unnecessary.

At the end of both games, Sports Channel had the usual interviews with the happy winners. That's fine, but hasn't the time come for Israeli basketball coaches to give honest post-game television interviews when their teams lose, as well?

I GREW UP pretending to be Mickey Mantle, Roger Maris and the rest of the Yankees, so it was like walking into a time machine when Ed Randall interviewed

former Yanks Johnny Blanchard, Hank Bauer and Bill "Moose" Skowron on Talking Baseball yesterday on Prime Sport.

Randall's always a bit too much in awe of those he interviews for my taste, but with this threesome, it was only natural. The stories he got them to recall were gems, like Blanchard's story about how he got a phone call late one night at a pizza parlor in Binghamton, New York, after finishing the season as a Yankee farm hand.

"Some guy said he was [Yankee General Manager] George Weiss, and said he wanted me at the Stadium the next day. I hung up on him," Blanchard recalled. Fortunately for him and Yankee fans, Weiss called back.

As the baseball strike continues to ruin our spring, it was refreshing to hear Blanchard say he

was happy "just putting the Yankee uniform on," or Skowron remembering that the most he ever made as a Yankee was \$37,000 - even though he holds the record (with two others) for most career home runs hit by a right-handed batter in the World Series (names of the other two below).

Talking Baseball's appeal depends mostly on whether your favorite player's on that day; otherwise, the chat-just leaves you hankering for a real game to watch. But until the ump's start yelling "Play ball!" again, the Prime Sports Monday double-header of Baseball's Greatest Games at 10 am and Talking Baseball at 12:30 pm is the next best thing to a box seat behind home plate.

Oh - those two other players? Joe DiMaggio and Frank Robinson.

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Deri defense calls key witness a liar

THE defense in the Aryeh Deri trial attempted to portray the state's key witness, Ya'acov Shmulevitz, as a mentally unstable liar in cross-examination yesterday.

In another development, the judges issued a subpoena for two of Shmulevitz's army files, which contain records on his mental health.

Defense lawyer Dan Avi-Yitzhak accused Shmulevitz several times of lying and at one point called him a megalomaniac.

"You boast of your close relations with Deri, Ovadia Yosef

and [former Likud minister Moshe] Katzav. You never saw Katzav in your life... this only proves your megalomania," Avi-Yitzhak said.

The cross-examination began in the afternoon, after the panel of three judges decided to subpoena Shmulevitz's regular IDF file and his rehabilitation file with the Defense Ministry. Shmulevitz was wounded in the head during his army service. The defense hopes to prove that the injury impaired Shmulevitz's mental fitness, and therefore call into question his viability as a witness.

JACOB DALLAL

But the judges did not decide whether they will allow the defense to review the subpoenaed material.

Avi-Yitzhak argued that the real value of the medical record is for the defense. "It is intolerable that we are examining [a witness] and there is material known to the state and the court which we don't know."

"Do you want all the material sent to you and decide what we [the judges] can see?" retorted Judge Ya'acov Tzema.

Deri interjected that the prosecution had acquired his army file, so surely the defense had a right to see Shmulevitz's.

Avi-Yitzhak also tried to show that Shmulevitz's testimony in court contradicted what he told police investigators.

Before becoming religious, Shmulevitz worked as a debt collector, with ties to the crime. Avi-Yitzhak asked Shmulevitz if he had ever threatened people or offered to issue threats.

"No," Shmulevitz said. Avi-Yitzhak: "Did you suggest to [your former rabbi Moshe]

Weinberg to pretend you were from the underworld, alter your voice and threaten [someone who owed Weinberg money]?"

Shmulevitz: "Yes... But Weinberg wanted to break the man's legs, so I offered to threaten him."

But while Shmulevitz's offer to threaten the man was on tape, Avi-Yitzhak pointed out, there was no evidence of Weinberg's wish to break the man's legs. "He probably said it on a different occasion," Shmulevitz said.

The cross-examination is to continue this morning.

10 policemen hurt in battle with haredim

RAINE MARCUS

TEN POLICEMEN were injured yesterday in clashes with hundreds of haredim protesting the building of an apartment block on what they say is the site of Jewish graves in Jaffa.

One policeman was taken to the hospital for treatment for moderate injuries, while the rest were treated on the spot. Twenty-nine demonstrators were arrested, of which 24 were later released, seven of them minors. Police said a similar protest will probably be held today.

Haredim from all over the country overturned garbage cans and blocked trucks arriving to work on the construction, in what has become a routine sight in the city's Ajami quarter over the past week.

They blocked traffic on Yefet Street until police succeeded in pushing them into a side street.

The demonstration began peace-

fully at around 10 a.m. with a few dozen haredim, but escalated when protesters were joined by around four hundred reinforcements a few hours later.

In response, around a hundred police and border policemen arrived to control the demonstration. Police were instructed to exercise restraint to avoid unnecessary violent incidents.

On Sunday, Chief Ashkenazi Rabbi Yisrael Lau called the demonstrators' leaders and the building contractors to his office to try and reach a peaceful solution. Contractor Udi Ilan even halted work on the site until an agreement could be reached. However, the haredim apparently are not prepared to compromise and are demanding that all construction work on the site come to an immediate and absolute standstill.

MDA gets funding for medics

JUDY SIEGEL

THE Health Ministry will allocate NIS 800,000 for 16 accompanying medics in Magen David Adom ambulances this year, ministry director-general Dr. Meir Oren announced yesterday.

Oren, speaking before the Knesset Labor and Social Affairs Committee, said he is trying to find a solution to the funding and manpower problems of MDA.

"We recognize the vital importance of MDA as the organization responsible for emergency medicine in Israel," he said. The cost of accompanying medics during the late-night shift is NIS 3.7 million a year. The Health and Finance ministries, Oren said, are working on finding a way to cover this gap, he said.

MDA accompanying medics took sanctions recently over plans to fire 16 medics because of a lack of funding.

During the day and early evening, ambulances are manned by national service women and other volunteers, but another 60 ambulances during the late-night shift have no accompanying medic; mobile intensive-care units have a doctor and a driver/medic around the clock.

Oren reiterated his ministry's support for plans to put IDF medics on MDA ambulances to fill job slots of accompanying medics.



Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin congratulates new Knesset Education Committee chairwoman Dalia Itzik yesterday, as Labor faction head Ra'anana Cohen looks on. (Efraim Kilshuk)

Itzik to head Education Committee

LIAT COLLINS

THE Labor Knesset faction unanimously elected Dalia Itzik chairwoman of the Education Committee yesterday, following the appointment of former chairman Avraham Burg as head of the Jewish Agency.

Itzik said she is excited by the new job and called for cooperation with all her colleagues.

This call was obviously aimed at Yael Dayan, who withdrew her candidacy Sunday. MK Salaf Tarif said he had also submitted

his candidacy, but due to what election committee head Emanuel Zissman termed "a technical error," his bid was not received.

Tarif said his candidacy had been "withdrawn without my knowledge." He claimed he had been told that, as a non-Jew, he could not chair the committee responsible for funds for Jewish religious and haredi education.

At the same time, he thanked those circulating a petition calling for his appointment as deputy interior minister.

Itzik is a former chairwoman of the Secondary School Teachers Association and held the education portfolio on Jerusalem's city council.

Speaker Shevah Weiss praised both the outgoing and incoming committee heads, and noted the appointment of a woman is especially significant.

Soccer-playing brothers' deaths not connected

JUDY SIEGEL

THE death of 17-year-old Liron Luzon, a soccer player for the Hapoel Tel Aviv youth team, had no medical connection to the death of his brother Daniel on the soccer field two years ago.

According to doctors at Sheba Hospital, where Liron died at midnight on Sunday after suffering brain death three weeks before, a microbe attacked his heart in an extremely rare complication.

Liron had collapsed on the Betar Ramat Gan training field after playing despite having the flu and a high fever. His heart muscle was damaged by the microbe, causing myocarditis. Because his brain was starved of oxygen for several critical minutes, he went into brain death. Doctors at Sheba's intensive care unit were helpless, but his parents insisted it was only a coma and that he would soon "wake up" and get out of bed.

In December 1992, Liron's brother Daniel died of cardiac arrest while playing for the Hapoel Tel Aviv youth team against Hapoel Kfar Sava. Doctors said the cause was an undiagnosed heart defect. After the tragedy, Liron was examined by cardiologists who found his heart was completely healthy. A few months ago, Liron transferred from Maccabi Jaffa's youth team to Hapoel Tel Aviv to "honor the memory" of his brother.

"It was just a terrible tragedy, horrible bad luck for the family," said a hospital spokeswoman.

The sports medicine research unit at the Wingate Institute for Physical Education yesterday noted that it is important for all amateur and professional sportsmen to undergo checkups to determine whether they are at risk for sudden death. The institute recently opened a center that performs checks on sportsmen and women of any age who want to run, walk, swim or work out regularly.

According to the institute's Dr. Yoni Yarom, among the risk factors are enlargement of the heart muscle, heart-valve problems and other heart defects. Sudden death under stress cannot be completely prevented, he said, but early detection is vital, especially if there is a family history of problems.

Rabin: Economic woes may cause budget cuts

LIAT COLLINS

PRIME MINISTER Yitzhak Rabin told his Labor faction yesterday that the economy was expected to be worse this year than last year and hinted at government budgetary cuts.

"Every lack of income means a reduction in budget. We must stop the [government] spending spree. There are limits and we can't just follow populism. Everybody wants to give and give but in order to give somebody has to pay," Rabin said.

MK Yosef Verman asked why it should be the pensioners who had to be the ones to pay, to which Rabin responded: "I'm also a pensioner. Why should my salary not be taxed?" Verman was apparently referring to a suggestion raised in the Labor and Social Affairs Committee last week to reduce the National

Insurance Institute payments of pensioners who continue working, earning above a certain sum.

Rabin asked to postpone the discussion on the provident funds by a week. "Let the [economic] system work according to the government's decisions and see what happens by next week," he suggested. "The problem is the public needs security and calming down."

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat arrived late, having met in Jericho with Palestinian economic heads. He said: "There are positive signals in the economy. The economy is working. We created a framework and although we didn't operate it, it helped." Shohat said that the entire economy was undergoing "certain shockwaves," but the stock market was recovering.

Dinitz: I never saw request for expense tab

FORMER Jewish Agency chairman Simcha Dinitz was asked by the head of the Finance Department to submit reports on his travel expenses and his personal use of the agency credit card, the prosecution contended in yesterday's session of his ongoing trial on fraud charges.

Prosecutor Shimon Dolan read Dinitz a letter requesting the reports, marked personal and sent to him by Finance Department head Zvi Barak in 1989.

Dinitz replied that he had never seen the letter. He added that his office staff used to open all his mail, even that marked personal, because of the volume of such letters he received.

Dolan then produced an envelope, sent in 1990, on which he had handwritten instructions to his staff not to open his personal mail.

Dolan also reminded Dinitz that his office manager between 1987 and 1990 had already testified that Dinitz opened his personal mail himself.

Dinitz responded that his written instructions on the envelope only applied to letters sent by personal friends. (Lim)

'UN attitude to Israel hasn't changed much'

BATSHEVA TSUR

THE attitude toward Israel in the United Nations has changed — but not fundamentally — since the historic handshake between Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat on the White House lawn, former US ambassador Morris Abram said yesterday.

Abram heads UN Watch, a Geneva-based non-governmental body, under the auspices of the World Jewish Congress.

"The language [at the UN] is more moderate," Abram told the members of the Israel Council on Foreign relations in Jerusalem.

yesterday, "but in 1994 there were still 21 anti-Israel resolutions passed in the General Assembly."

Abram also noted that \$6 million is being spent by two special committees on anti-Israeli and antisemitic propaganda.

He cited the example of International Solidarity Day with the Palestinians in November when 200 respected NGOs affiliated with the world body assembled. When members of the UN Watch asked to appear — in order to call

attention to the progress made in the peace process — they were at first refused. Later, after being granted five minutes to speak, they were interrupted five times.

He said there were four ways to improve things — to rescind "the five pounds of resolutions accumulated against Israel" since 1948; to retire the two committees engaged in antisemitism; to reallocate their \$6m budget for health, education and other humanitarian purposes among the Palestinians and to reform the grouping system at the UN, putting Israel in the Western group.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Worker falls to death from scaffolding

A worker doing renovation and plumbing work fell to his death from scaffolding on a three-story building in Haifa yesterday.

Two hurt in factory fire

Two workers were burned yesterday afternoon in a fire that broke out in a beauty accessories factory in the Holon industrial zone. Firefighters prevented the blaze from spreading to other parts of the factory.

Firefighters said one of the workers was cleaning some machinery when it caught fire.

Woman hit by train

A Jerusalem woman was struck by a train yesterday after sitting on the tracks in the capital and refusing to get up even when passersby pleaded with her to do so.

A train that passed by at 3:30 p.m. struck her, and she was admitted to Hadassah-University Hospital, Ein Kerem, in serious condition.

Gideon Hassid dead at 65

Gideon Hassid, 65, a former senior attorney in the State Prosecutor's Office, died yesterday in Ichilov Hospital from injuries sustained when he was hit by a car in Tel Aviv two weeks ago. He was considered one of the country's leading attorneys and served on the team that prosecuted Adolf Eichmann.

Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the eight of spades, seven of hearts, ten of diamonds, and eight of clubs.

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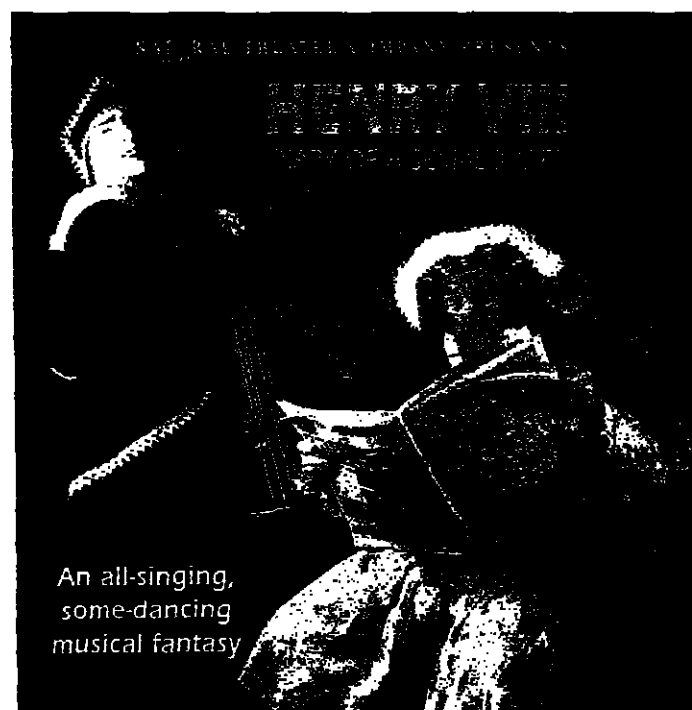
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Director: John Abulafia (English National Opera)
Music: Steven Edis (Royal National Theatre)

A fat, vain, psychotic, greedy, oversexed monarch gets his come uppance in this all-singing, some dancing, musical fantasy. A frenzy of marriage, country and Western, marriage, tambourines, marriage, puppets, more marriages and several executions. A smattering of Opera, a smidgen of smut and a 16th Century version of Blind Date add to the fun!

Audiences will remember the tremendously entertaining "Scarlati's Wedding" and can look forward to more hilarious situations, cheeky juxtapositions and virtuoso musicianship in the style that is uniquely Natural Theatre

THE RECANATI AUDITORIUM - TEL-AVIV MUSEUM OF ART

Wed., 15.3 - 20:30 Tue., 21.3 - 20:30
Sun., 19.3 - 20:30 Wed., 22.3 - 20:30

JERUSALEM - JERUSALEM THEATRE 25.3 - 20:30

HAIFA - HAIFA AUDITORIUM 17.3 - 14:00

NETANYA - MUNICIPAL CULTURAL CENTER 14.3 - 20:30

KFAR SABA - MUNICIPAL CULTURAL CENTER 18.3 - 20:30

REHOVOT - WIX AUDITORIUM 13.3 - 20:30

CARMIEL - MUNICIPAL CULTURAL CENTER 16.3 - 20:30

RAMAT EFAAL - AUDITORIUM 11.3 - 20:30

Tickets at Box offices: Tel-Aviv - Tel Aviv Museum of Art, 03-6961297, "Hadran" 03-5279797, 5279449, "Caster" 03-6044725, "Le'an" 03-5247373, "Rokod" 03-5223663

Jerusalem - Jerusalem Theatre, 02-610011, "Kalam" 02-256869, "Bimot" 02-250905

Haifa - "Garber" 04-377777, "Kupat Haifa" 04-662244

Netanya - Culture center, 09-612453, 603392

Kfar Saba - Culture center, 09-479230

Rehovot - Wix Aud. 08-343352, "Lotus" 08-461500

Carmiel - Culture center, 04-9987951, Nahava "Sherut" David 04-9920330

Ramat Efaal - Local committee, 03-6356885

Direct sale - tickets at the price of one with 400 points.

הכזמן האחרון